



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124209
Inspection date	23 February 2006
Inspector	Lisa-Marie Jones

Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1983. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a four bedroom, three storey property. They are located in a residential area in Forestdale, which is a suburb of the London Borough of Croydon.

The first floor kitchen and living room are the main areas used for minded children. Children have access to a bathroom on the top level and there is a ground floor cloakroom. A fully enclosed garden is used for outside play and the family pet is a dog.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time. She is currently minding six children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder attends local carer and toddler groups on a regular basis. She has a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level three in Child Care and Education. She makes good use of training organised by the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and has attended High/Scope and Birth to three matters Framework training. She is approved to receive a Nursery Education Grant for funded 3 and 4-year-olds but has not had any such children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are effectively protected from illness and risks of cross infection as the childminder follows very rigid hygiene practices. Children have a very clear understanding about the importance of good hygiene practices. They become independent in their self-help skills due to high levels of support and consistent routines. Children's health is protected because the childminder keeps meticulous records and follows comprehensive procedures if children are unwell; she has completed additional training for maintaining children's health who suffer from asthma, epilepsy and eczema, as a result children with these needs thrive in this environment.

Children enjoy taking part in an extensive range of stimulating physical activities both indoors and outdoors, which positively contributes to their good health and encourages them to develop a healthy lifestyle. Children thrive due to an excellent balance of a healthy diet and exercise. A varied range of attractively presented meals and snacks encourage children to prepare and try new foods and subsequently widen their tastes. A comprehensive menu takes into account all children's individual dietary requirements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are protected exceptionally well from risk of accidental injury which means they can move freely and safely around the setting enabling their overall independence. This is because the childminder gives top priority to ensure that effective risk assessments are routinely done and she takes time to teach children how to keep themselves safe through an excellent range of activities which include general health and safety aspects; such as, using equipment safety and road safety. Children are kept safe during outings as the childminder follows effective procedures and uses appropriate equipment.

Children can choose from an extensive, wide range of quality play materials that are in excellent condition. Furniture, equipment and toys are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. Child sized furniture

and easy access to toys enable children to feel welcome and secure.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has a thorough understanding of her role within child protection. Robust policies and procedures ensure that children's overall well-being is paramount.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children develop strong relationships with the childminder, who is responsive to their individual need and ensures that their development is promoted well. She knows the children exceptionally well and devotes her time to them to enhance their sense of well-being and emotional stability. They quickly become competent communicators because the childminder uses supportive and enthusiastic interaction at all levels, this enables children to develop confidence and make progress in their social learning.

Children take part in a excellent variety of well planned activities and experiences that support their development in all areas. They are enthusiastic when playing and enjoy all activities that are available to them especially art and craft activities and role-play. They have excellent opportunities to explore the local community and have wonderful chances to reinforce learning through the natural world such as visiting farms. Children make good progress in their development as the childminder plans and adapts activities according to their abilities to provide challenge for all children.

Young childrens needs are fully met as the childminder has a excellent understanding of their developmental needs and uses the Birth to three framework exceptionally well to enhance this. She plans activities according to their needs and records their development and progress which is shared with parents.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children respond extremely well to the childminder's consistent, calm approach. As a result children's behaviour is good and subsequently, they play harmoniously together. The childminder uses positive strategies to manage behaviour, which are appropriate to the age and understanding of the children. Children receive meaningful praise which encourages their confidence and self-esteem.

Children's individual needs are given top priority at all times. All children are included and they are encouraged to have a positive view of the wider community. Children learn about the world around them on outings and through sensitive discussions with the childminder. The provision of toys and resources that positively reflect the wider community successfully enhances children's understanding and appreciation of difference.

The childminder is very aware that some children have specific needs and is proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is

identified or admitted to the provision. Excellent steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting, in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties. Children with identified special needs thrive from adapted and well planned activities.

Children benefit from successful and effective professional relationships between their carers. Purposeful two-way sharing of information ensures high quality, consistent care both at home and in the childminding setting.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from a well-trained and skilled childminder who is dedicated to childminding and providing outstanding care for children. Children flourish in a setting that is exceptionally well organised, with consistent routines that allow time for quiet and active play. They receive excellent adult support to help them feel secure and confident.

Well written, comprehensive policies and procedures guide and enhance the childminder's daily practice. Overall, the high quality of the provision means that the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection improvement has been made to written policies. A clear and comprehensive sick child policy is now in place, which gives details of effective procedures that take place if a child becomes unwell. It also gives clear guidelines to parents of steps to take if a child is infectious, this is to ensure the well-being of children from cross infections.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk