

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 124641
Inspection date 04 July 2007
Inspector Rebecca Elizabeth Khabbazi

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1994. She lives with her husband and one adult child. The family live in a three bedroom house in a residential area of Croydon. The downstairs of the house is used for childminding. A garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years old, and there are currently three children under eight years old on roll. The childminder also cares for children over eight years old.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children begin to learn about simple good hygiene practices when they take their shoes off and wash their hands when they come in from school. However, they currently share a hand towel to dry them, so they are not fully protected from the risk of cross-contamination. Children benefit from regular meals and drinks that meet their nutritional needs, and enjoy sitting together having a sandwich and some fruit for their tea. They take part in some physical activity

as part of a healthy lifestyle. During the holidays they go on outings to the park or the play barn at the farm, and during term time they play in the garden on a regular basis.

Children's health is protected as the childminder has a valid first aid certificate and can respond appropriately to minor accidents or injuries. Mostly accurate records are kept about children's health, but parents are not currently asked to sign the accident book to confirm that they have been informed about any injuries. In addition, not all parents have been asked to give their written consent for the childminder to seek medical advice or treatment for their child in an emergency, to ensure that their wishes are known.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, well maintained family home, with facilities to meet their needs. Their risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder takes steps to reduce potential hazards, such as fitting covers to electrical sockets and keeping cleaning materials out of children's reach. Children begin to learn to keep themselves safe when the childminder reminds them not to run inside, or when they all cross the road together. They choose from a satisfactory range of play materials that are suitable for their age and kept in good condition. This helps ensure they can play safely.

The childminder has an understanding of her responsibility to record and report any child protection concerns, which helps safeguard children's welfare. However, she does not have written guidance about local child protection procedures or relevant contact details available, to ensure she can act quickly and appropriately if required.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and settled in the childminder's home. They have friendly relationships with the childminder, who knows them well and includes them as part of the family. The childminder spends time talking to them about their day and shows an interest in what they say and do. Children take part in a satisfactory variety of activities at the childminder's home during term-time, and during the holidays, this is extended to include outings to the park, going fishing, or fruit picking. The childminder supports children with homework and reading according to their age and needs. Children enjoy spending time playing board games or using their imaginations to make everyone 'dinner' with the role play materials. They are able to relax after their day at school.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed into the setting and valued as individuals, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The childminder plans activities that all the children can take part in at their own level. She answers children's questions about different cultures and beliefs and encourages a positive attitude towards diversity. Children are familiar with the routines and expectations of the setting, for example, they know they need to put away one game before they get out another, and this helps them behave well.

Children benefit from positive relationships between their parents and the childminder. They exchange information every day when children are collected, which helps children experience

consistent care. Most arrangements for the care of the children have been confirmed in writing, for instance through the written contract, but not all relevant documentation is in place.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder keeps most required records, and has ensured relevant qualifications such as first aid are up to date. A record of children's attendance is maintained, but this does not currently show the actual times children arrive and leave as required. Records are kept in a folder and are readily accessible for inspection. The childminder organises her home appropriately around the children's needs, for instance, ensuring that there is space to play and children can easily reach the play materials available. This helps children enjoy their time at the setting. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve record-keeping in relation to incidents, medication and children's attendance. Incident and medication documentation has been updated and improved, to ensure all required information is included and an accurate record is maintained. Attendance registers have also been updated, but still do not contain all of the required detail.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 satisfactory. 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

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- improve hygiene precautions by providing individual hand towels for children
- make sure written consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is requested from all parents
- obtain guidance on local child protection procedures and details of who to contact if you have concerns about a child

- make sure that attendance records show the actual hours that children are present, rather than contracted hours
- improve accident records by making sure that parents sign all entries to confirm they have been informed

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk