

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 139833
Inspection date 16 November 2007
Inspector Carol Newman

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 1993 and has been a childminder for many years. She lives with her husband and family in North Cheam in the London Borough of Sutton. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for three children at any one time and is currently minding three children, who attend on a full and part time basis.

The childminder prefers to care for very young children. She takes children to the local park and the local shops.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean environment where they learn to follow effective hygiene practices, such as cleaning their hands with wipes before snacks and meals. Suitable nappy changing

procedures are in place to ensure children are not exposed to germs. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and her first aid box is well stocked. This means she can give appropriate care if there is an accident.

The childminder provides effective storage facilities for the food provided by parents to prevent spoiling. Children help themselves to a drink whenever they need one and the childminder encourages children to drink plenty to prevent dehydration.

The childminder does not refer to the 'Birth to three matters' guidance to influence her practice. However, babies receive lots of warmth and affection. This supports their emotional well-being and gives them confidence.

Children regularly enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their health and develop their physical skills. For example, they regularly play ball in the park and go for walks, whenever the weather permits.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her home effectively, with the safety and comfort of the children in mind. This allows children to move around freely and independently. Children benefit from a good range of safety measures, for example, socket covers, an effective emergency evacuation procedure and a secure garden for outdoor play. However, the fire blanket is not suitably sited in the kitchen. Regular fire drills help children become familiar with the procedures, so that they learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely.

Children have easy and safe access to a wide range of toys and resources appropriate for their age. Toys are cleaned regularly and discarded if broken, so that they are suitable for the children's use.

The childminder has an appropriate understanding of child protection issues and knows what action to take if she has concerns about a child in her care. This ensures she quickly recognises when a child is in danger and can act in the child's best interest. However, the childminder has not attended updated training in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Young children are able to make themselves understood through language, actions and the childminder's constant support. The childminder helps babies to learn about their environment when she takes them to the park to observe nature and to the shops, to learn about the names and colours of fruit and vegetables.

Children independently choose from a range of activities that are easily accessible and provide stimulation. Children relate very well to the childminder and to each other. Children confidently approach the childminder for support indicating trusting relationships are built.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder treats children with respect and uses lots of praise and encouragement to promote their self-esteem. Some resources reflect positive images of aspects of society. This means children learn to acknowledge and accept differences.

The childminder has experience of working with children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and they progress well due to consistent encouragement and support. For example, the childminder uses pictures and the daily routine effectively to support children with speech and language difficulties so that they make good progress.

Children behave very well and benefit from the childminder's consistent praise and encouragement. The childminder supports younger children in sharing and turn taking. She joins in with the children's play to ensure they are busily engaged throughout the day and this impacts on their behaviour.

The childminder gives daily verbal feedback to parents about their child's day. This helps provide children with consistent care between home and the childminding provision.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children's playroom is well laid out and the childminder shows a clear understanding of her role in supporting the children in their play and learning. All documentation is in place. However, some records, such as the accident and incident records, are not sufficiently maintained to offer good support to the care of the children.

All children receive good attention from the childminder. She enjoys their company very much and knows them well, helping them feel secure and confident.

At inspection, the childminder was in breach of her conditions of registration in relation to the numbers and ages of the children she can mind at any one time. However, a variation to her conditions was made and the childminder is compliant and proactive in relation to ensuring that this breach does not occur again.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to consider attending a Child Protection course to develop knowledge and skills. The childminder has not attended a Child Protection course but she has updated her knowledge at first aid training.

The childminder also agreed to ensure that the accident book is always signed by parents. All entries, since the last inspection, have been signed by parents to contribute to the quality of the children's care.

In addition, the childminder agreed to include details specifying the expectations of both parties as to the care and activities provided for the child, as well as the business arrangements, in the written agreement with parents. National Childminding Association contracts are in place for

all minded children and these contain all the necessary information to support the care of the children.

A recommendation was also raised suggesting that the childminder keeps a written record detailing care, sleep, meal and nappy routines. The childminder prefers to talk through the children's day with the parents, when they collect their children.

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 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):

- ensure that conditions of registration are adhered to at all times
- ensure all documentation is well maintained to support the care of the children
- ensure the fire blanket is suitable sited in the kitchen.

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