

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 124310
Inspection date 09 November 2007
Inspector Joanne Lindsey Caswell

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 good. 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 2000. She lives with her husband and family in a residential area of Thornton Heath, within walking distance of bus stops and local amenities. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding and a first floor bedroom is used for sleeping. A fully enclosed garden is available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently caring for two children who attend on a full time basis and one child who attends on a part time basis. The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis.

The childminder is a member of the Croydon Childminding Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely well-protected from illness and infection, as the childminder maintains an exceptionally clean and healthy environment. She ensures that children develop excellent

levels in independence with personal care routines, such as toileting, hand washing and blowing noses. Children have their own freshly-laundered bedding and use their own towels and flannels to prevent cross-infection. Comprehensive written policies are on file reflecting the childminder's strong commitment towards providing a healthy and hygienic environment. For example, clear information is given to parents on the signs and symptoms of infectious illness, helping to ensure sick children are excluded from the setting.

The daily routine is carefully planned to ensure children have ample time to play in the fresh air and undertake regular exercise. Children play in the garden and frequently visit the park, enabling them to run about and move around freely. Children regularly visit local activity centres to enable them to climb and use a range of physical play resources. This enables children to undertake frequent and robust exercise to enhance their physical well-being.

Children's dietary needs are extremely well catered for. They have frequent drinks and eat healthy snacks, such as fresh fruit. Children access drinking water freely, enabling children to respond to their body's needs when they recognise they are thirsty. Children enjoy a healthy range of home-cooked, nutritious meals and have excellent opportunities to sample a wider range of foods from around the world. The childminder is extremely conscientious in promoting healthy eating and offers good strategies to encourage children to become interested in foods, such as cookery activities. Children enjoy snack times and take great interest in the foods they are eating. This helps them to develop positive eating patterns which promote their healthy development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from an extremely well-designed, totally child-orientated environment in which they can be fully supervised at all times. Children's safety and security is given optimum priority. Children play in rooms which have been fully checked for any potential dangers and a comprehensive risk assessment is undertaken to identify any hazards. Sleeping children are frequently checked and closely monitored to ensure their safety and well-being.

Children learn how to keep themselves safe as the childminder explains potential dangers to them. She uses daily opportunities to help children learn about safety. For example, older children learn about road safety whilst on outings. The childminder plans visits to the emergency services to help children benefit from practical experiences and understand how to keep themselves safe.

Children play with an extensive range of high quality toys and resources, all of which are checked regularly to ensure they are safe for children to use.

Children are extremely well protected in the event of an emergency. The childminder practises emergency evacuation procedures with the children and has identified designated places of safety to ensure children's safety and welfare. There are excellent systems in place for the safe arrival and departure of children. The premises are fully secure and children are unable to leave unsupervised.

The childminder has a comprehensive knowledge of safeguarding children issues and clearly understands the procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child. As a result, children's safety and welfare is fully promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have extensive opportunities to participate in a stimulating, fun and diverse range of play opportunities. They undertake numerous outings to local places of interest which broaden their experiences and enable them to socialise with other children. The childminder provides an extremely relaxed and vibrant atmosphere, enabling children to have fun, make new friends and feel settled and secure.

Children engage in many purposeful activities, enabling them to be highly stimulated and confident in the childminder's care. Children enjoy activities which are based around interesting topics and themes. They enjoy challenges and develop confidence to try new things and gain new skills, as the childminder allows them to explore and experiment and develop interest and curiosity. The childminder carries out observations on children's learning and development. However, the observations are not always appropriately evaluated in order to plan for children's next stages in learning. As a result, further activities are not always planned to target children's individual learning.

Children form very strong relationships with the childminder and enjoy close interaction. They engage in conversation with the childminder to extend their language and communication skills. Children enjoy close and loving relationships with the childminder. She engages in play with them and enjoys their company. Children develop high levels of confidence and self-esteem. They feel listened to and clearly understand that their needs will be recognised. They feel valued as members of the childminder's family, enabling them to be extremely relaxed, happy and secure in the childminder's care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn about diversity within the wider world, as they play with an exceptional range of resources which reflect modern day society. They consistently see positive images of gender, disability and cultural diversity, enabling them to develop positive attitudes towards equality. As part of activities, children have excellent opportunities to learn about the wider world. For example, they explore topics, such as Festivals and Cultures and sample foods from around the world. They listen to international music and hear stories from around the world. This helps children to clearly understand, and respect, the cultural needs of others.

Children with learning difficulties and or disabilities are fully welcomed into the childminder's home. She is totally dedicated to adapting her care routines and the home environment, wherever necessary, to ensure she can meet all children's individual needs.

Children's behaviour is managed extremely well. The childminder uses effective and consistent strategies to enable children to fully understand her expectations and the acceptable boundaries. Children are treated with total respect and courtesy. As a result, children co-operate extremely well with one another and show total care and respect for their peers and play materials.

The childminder ensures parents are made fully aware of each child's daily achievements and care routines. The "Toddler's Daily Diary" is an extremely effective method for exchanging information with parents and ensuring they are made fully aware of children's daily activities. This enables children to talk about and share their day with parents. The childminder is totally committed to working closely with parents and offers a flexible routine based around their

needs. Comprehensive written information regarding the childminding service is maintained and parents are made fully aware of all aspects of care and written policies.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from the exceptionally well-organised, professional childminding service. The childminder is extremely aware of her role and responsibilities as a childminder and is keen to develop her knowledge and skills through the completion of extensive further training.

Children are protected at all times as the childminder ensures that all adults living in her home have been fully vetted. The childminder has an excellent understanding of the National Standards. This ensures that children receive the highest levels of care and the conditions of her registration are adhered to at all times.

Children's toys and play materials are organised exceptionally well. This enables children to access them easily and safely and enhances their opportunities to develop independence. The daily routine is planned meticulously to cater for all children's differing needs. Each day is flexible and includes ample time for school runs, toddler groups, outings and visits, mealtimes and children's sleep routines. Comprehensive documentation is maintained and is kept up-to-date. All children's details are stored confidentially and securely.

The childminder is dynamic and forward thinking in her approach to caring for children. She aims to fully support both the children and their families and is dedicated and motivated to undertake further training to enhance her knowledge and skills.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, two recommendations were raised. These related to suitability checks for adult members of the household and documentation reflecting parents' consent for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. The provider has addressed this by ensuring all relevant vetting procedures are completed and obtaining written parents' consent to support all care routines.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted which 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 good. 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):

- develop the use of child observations to clearly identify how children's individual learning and development is planned for

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