

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 124521
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 satisfactory. 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 1990. She lives with her husband and family in the London Borough of Croydon. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She is currently caring for four children who attend on a part time basis. The childminder is willing to collect children from local schools and pre-schools.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted well. The childminder provides a very clean, warm and well-maintained home. There are good procedures in place for the prevention of infection and illness. For example, children learn about the importance of good personal hygiene and wash their hands after toileting and before eating. Children use separate towels and flannels to

prevent cross-infection and the spread of germs. Parents are made aware that children cannot attend when suffering from illness, helping to guard against infection.

Children have regular opportunities to play outside and benefit from daily fresh air and exercise. The childminder walks to and from school and children enjoy many outings to the local park and play in the garden. This enables children to move around freely and enjoy active, physical play.

Documentation to support children's health and welfare is generally maintained appropriately, although accident records are not confidential to each child.

Children's dietary needs are met well. They have regular drinks and the childminder provides healthy, nutritious meals and snacks. She is very aware of children's specific requirements and is vigilant in catering for children with food allergies, ensuring that all food is checked to meet children's personal needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder takes appropriate precautions within the home to keep children safe. She ensures that hazardous materials, such as medication and cleaning fluids, are stored out of children's reach and all electrical sockets and low level glass have been made safe. Children have sufficient room to move around freely and safely.

Children play with a good range of toys and play materials, maintained to a satisfactory standard. Children access toys easily and make independent choices. Equipment to support the care needs of younger children is available, such as pushchairs and low level seating, all of which is in a satisfactory condition.

Children are kept safe on outings as the childminder plans visits to locations she knows are safe and suitable for young children. She has considered emergency evacuation procedures and ensures that children are supervised in her care at all times. Older children learn about road safety when walking to/from school.

The childminder has a basic understanding of her responsibilities regarding safeguarding children. She is aware of some procedures, but has not completed recent training. As a result her knowledge of local policies and procedures is not completely up-to-date and this has an impact on how she promotes children's safety and well-being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled in the childminder's care. They form very positive, warm relationships with her and enjoy plenty of individual attention. For example, children play board games with the childminder and share stories together. The childminder utilises every opportunity to help promote children's learning and development through play and activities. For example, whilst playing board games, the childminder encourages children to count. She extends children's language whilst reading stories and playing Lotto. This enables children to benefit from many practical learning opportunities through well-planned play.

The childminder uses daily experiences to extend children's learning. For example, children undertake visits to museums and the library and enjoy activities such as train rides. This enables children to broaden their interests and develop their knowledge through first-hand experiences.

There is a very homely, relaxed environment enabling children to play freely and enjoy plenty of individual attention and physical affection.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a basic awareness of the wider world. They visit the library regularly and borrow books which help them to understand the needs of others. The childminder helps children to develop respect for others as they develop positive attitudes towards understanding disability. However, the play materials and toys available to children do not freely reflect images of modern day society. This restricts children from understanding wider issues of diversity and use play experiences to help them understand the needs of others.

The childminder has a committed approach to supporting all children and is willing to meet all children's needs. She manages behaviour effectively and discusses behaviour management strategies with parents. This helps to ensure consistency for children. Children develop awareness of acceptable behaviour levels and have time to reflect on their behaviour, enabling them to understand 'right' from 'wrong'.

There are effective procedures in place with parents. The childminder ensures that all parents' consent for care routines is discussed and formally agreed in writing and written information, such as a complaints procedure, is also shared. This ensures that parents have an awareness of regulations and understand childminding policies.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has a secure understanding of the National Standards and is aware of her role and responsibilities. She ensures that all relevant vetting procedures are in place to help protect children. The childminder has completed some training and keeps her knowledge of some aspects of childminding up-to-date, such as the new Early Years Foundation Stage. However, her knowledge of Safeguarding Children has not been updated recently.

The daily routine is planned around the children's needs with sufficient time for mealtimes, school pick ups, rest periods and outings. The childminder plans her day appropriately to support children's individual care needs.

Most documentation is in place to support children's care and welfare, although the format of recording accidents is not always confidential to each child.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, three recommendations were raised. These related to the provision of a fire blanket and written information for parents relating to complaints and the care of sick children. The provider has addressed this by ensuring a suitable fire blanket is available in the

kitchen. This improves the fire safety arrangements within the home. The childminder has improved her written documentation to provide a sick child policy and a complaints procedure. This ensures that parents understand some care routines and procedures.

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 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):

- develop knowledge and understanding of Safeguarding Children policies and procedures
- improve the documentation for recording accidents to ensure confidentiality
- develop the range of resources available to children which reflect positive images of modern day society

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