

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 154788
Inspection date 03 July 2008
Inspector Sylvia Dindar

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 2002, she lives with her husband and two sons in Hanworth. Public transport, local schools and amenities are all in walking distance.

The childminder is registered to care for four children and currently has four children on roll. All areas of the house are used for childminding except the main bedroom. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. Children's good health is promoted through robust daily routines; children clean their hands at meal times and wash their hands after using the toilet. The risk of cross infection is successfully minimised because the childminder does not care for children when they are ill. She has a clear and effective sick child policy in place which she shares with parents. This informs them of the communicable diseases and her duty to protect all children's good health. The childminder has successful

systems for recording all administration of medication and any accidents involving the children in her care.

The childminder liaises closely with parents, so that she is aware of children's individual dietary needs. She shares information of the food she provides verbally with parents, on a daily basis. Children are offered nutritious balanced meals and routinely have fruit to eat at snack time. The childminder encourages fussy eaters by offering food that is attractively presented and a range of new foods to try. Drinks are offered regularly to children and are kept at a low height so that they can help themselves. The childminder gently reminds them if they haven't had a drink for some time, ensuring that they are well hydrated.

Children enjoy daily outings for physical activities in the fresh air, this contributes to keeping them fit and well. They regularly visit parks or toddler groups where they can climb, balance and run around. In addition to this younger children practise ball skills indoors. During the inspection children showed developing skills in their co-ordination and were able to practise kicking a ball successfully. Children have a range of outdoor equipment in the garden to further support their development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home that is warm, welcoming and secure. Toys are of a good quality, well maintained and are set up ready for children to commence their play. Children are able to move around safely and independently because the childminder has identified and addressed any hazards. For example, children are restricted from dangerous areas such as the stairs and the kitchen as a stair gate is in place.

The childminder has planned a fire evacuation procedure and this is now practised with all children. The childminder ensures that the smoke detectors are well maintained and in working order and that a fire blanket is available and ready for use in an emergency. Children learn the importance of road safety through consistent messages about how to keep themselves safe.

Effective child protection procedures promote and safeguard children's welfare while they are in the care of the childminder. A written policy outlines the childminder's responsibility with regard to child protection and is fully shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the childminders, they are greeted warmly when they arrive and consequently settle well. Favourite toys are placed around the room and as a result children commence their play straight away.

Children enjoy a daily routine that provides them with a range of play and learning opportunities both in and out of doors. For example, the childminder allows children to play with balls while indoors as well as when outside. As a result children enjoy kicking and rolling the ball and are developing good co-ordination. They learn to ride bikes and trikes, climb and balance as they have a mixture of play in the childminder's garden and trips to local parks.

Children have a good relationship with the childminder. They are encouraged to use their language as they chat and play. The childminder holds good eye contact with children showing

them that she is listening and valuing what they say. She speaks to them in a way that encourages their speech and language skills.

Children concentrate well as they construct with bricks and set out the train track in the conservatory. The childminder encourages mathematical skills as she talks to them about numbers and children are encouraged to count through songs and every day activities. Children are given time to solve their own problems and try out their ideas, consequently they are becoming confident and competent learners. The childminder is aware that not all children have good concentration so provides plenty of activities to keep children stimulated and occupied.

The childminder provides regular outings to play areas and places of interest, such as local farms. The children socialise together at toddler groups. These outings provide additional play experiences and challenges for the children and further extend the learning opportunities that children experience when with the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met as the childminder recognises that each child is unique. Children feel valued and included in the setting because the childminder gives them attention and offers them lots of praise. Children's emotional needs are well met as the childminder spends time with parents and works in very close partnership. This leads to strong relationships and therefore parents are happy to share information and are confident in the childminder's ability to care for their children. The childminder understands that from time to time some children need more support than others and at these times she shows consideration and empathy to both the parent and child. She provides cuddles and routines which provide consistency in order to make the children feel secure. Children feel at home as they have equal access to the toys and are involved in activities of their choosing. Children are learning that all people are different and should be valued and respected. The childminder values the children's individual families and often talks to them about their home and their siblings.

Children's behaviour is good in line with their age and stage of development because they know what is expected of them. They have a good relationship with the childminder and the other children. Rules are set around safety, kindness, the care of others and their property. They are consistently applied so that children know what is expected of them. The childminder understands why children show unacceptable behaviour and deals with tantrums with the minimum of fuss, allowing children to express their emotions in a safe environment.

The childminder develops strong relationships with parents in order to provide continuity of care for children. Parents are happy to share information; they are confident in the childminder's ability to care for their children because the childminder asks for information to support their child's individual needs. They are provided with a range of information through policies and verbal and written records, however, some detail is missing in the complaints policy.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a good knowledge of the National Standards. She ensures that all the people living on the premises have been suitably vetted. Space and resources are well organised

to allow children to access the toys and play unhindered. Children have access to a range of activities which meet their individual developmental needs.

All documents required by regulation are in place and kept efficiently. This includes an attendance register, which shows that the childminder maintains ratios in line with her registration. All records are shared with parents and kept in a confidential manner.

The childminder has developed a range of policies. Although she explains an effective complaints procedure some detail is missing. For example, it does not show parents the response times they can expect when they make a written complaint.

The childminder is pro-active in her own development. She liaises with the Early Years partnership to reflect and improve her practice in order that she can provide the best care for children.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At last inspection the childminder was set actions in order to improve her knowledge of the requirements in regulation. She has done this through studying the National Standards for day care and childminding and the associated addendums with the support of the local Early Years development worker. As a result the childminder has been able to address the other actions set. These were set around the safe administration of medication and the knowledge and implementation of an effective complaints procedure as well as the knowledge of significant events to be reported to Ofsted. As a result robust systems are in place for the safe administration of medication. The childminder has written a prompt list to remind her when Ofsted need to be informed of significant event. As a result children's safety and welfare is promoted. The childminder has developed a procedure and policy for complaints which is shared with parents, however, some detail is missing in regard to response times to complaints. In order to improve the quality of information given to parents a recommendation was raised at this inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 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 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):

- further review the complaints policy to ensure that parents have secure information about response times to complaints

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