

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	143863
Inspection date	15 November 2007
Inspector	Angela Ramsey
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 September 1992. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a three bedroom house in the London Borough of Lambeth.

Childminding takes place on the ground floor and children also have access to the garden.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children aged under five years at any one time. She is currently caring for two children both aged under five years. The childminder has a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder follows good hygiene procedures which enable children to remain healthy. Her home is regularly cleaned. Children are taught the importance of washing their hands before

eating. Nappy changing procedures are sound. Medication and accident records are kept and these are countersigned by parents which ensures they are kept well informed. The childminder has requested parental consent to emergency medical treatment or advice. This means parents wishes are known and adhered to. The childminder has successfully completed a first aid course and she ensures her first aid box is kept well stocked.

Children are well nourished. The childminder prepares healthy meals and snacks in accordance with children's specific dietary requirements. Drinks of water or diluted fresh juices are provided regularly and children are encouraged to drink, which ensures they are well hydrated.

Opportunities for children to enjoy physical activities are provided. For example, in the summer months children enjoy playing in the paddling pool in the childminder's garden. They also go for walks, feed the ducks and play on the equipment in the local parks. When playing in the outside area at the One O'clock Club children can ride wheeled toys which helps them to negotiate corners and develops their spatial awareness.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a comfortable and welcoming family home which is well maintained with adequate space for children to play. Child sized tables and chairs enable children to sit in comfort as they play and eat their meals.

A wide range of good quality, age appropriate toys and play materials are available for children to enjoy. The childminder regularly changes the toys available to ensure the children remain interested in the selection available.

Appropriate safety equipment is in place within the home, for example, a safety gate prevents children from climbing the stairs. Fire safety is good; smoke alarms and a fire blanket are provided and a fire evacuation procedure drawn up which is practised with the children. This ensures children know what to do in the event of an emergency.

The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. She is aware of the importance of recording any concerns and has the appropriate contact numbers for advice and support. She is clear that the welfare of the child is a priority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They relate well to her and automatically go to her for comfort and reassurance. She provides interesting play activities for children of all ages to help them to develop and enjoy their time at the setting. For example, children can increase their imagination as they enjoy role play with the toy kitchen. They can be creative as they draw using crayons or experiment with play dough. The childminder reads stories and sings songs with the children. Children enjoy singing and doing the actions to songs such as 'row, row, row the boat' and 'the wheels on the bus'.

When visiting under five groups children are provided with opportunities to develop their social skills as they meet with their peers. At these groups children enjoy playing with sand, water and painting activities.

Children experience a wide range of activities, both inside and outside of the home; this contributes to their overall development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about people of different cultures and religions from the selection of resources such as books and dolls provided for them.

The childminder has some experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and she is committed to meeting all children's individual needs and including them in all the activities and the daily routines within the service she provides.

Children behave well due to the childminder's clear and consistent boundaries. She has realistic expectations of children's behaviour. Distraction is used as a strategy to manage unwanted behaviour and she regularly praises children's positive behaviour. Children learn to share and to take turns, for example, when drawing. They are also encouraged to develop good manners by using 'please' and 'thank you' when appropriate.

Children's experiences with the childminder are significantly enhanced because she works in partnership with parents. This ensures children's individual needs are met. The childminder gathers relevant details about children's individual needs and uses the information to plan for each child's care needs. However, parents are not informed of the procedures for making a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home in the well-organised environment, which helps them gain confidence and be independent. Children have opportunities for free play as well as more structured activities.

There is clear documentation in place to support the efficient organisation of the childminding service. Children's needs are well met because of the good relationships and effective communication with the parents. Parents are well informed about their child's day and the care provided.

All documentation is well maintained and kept confidentially. The maintaining of these documents works well in practice, to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection required that the childminder ensure children have access to resources that reflect people with disabilities in a positive way. The childminder has provided children with books that reflect positive images of people with disabilities. The providing of which increases children's awareness of others.

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 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):

- ensure a method for recording any complaints is implemented and parents are provided with the address and telephone number of Ofsted.

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