

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	143977
Inspection date	25 March 2008
Inspector	Janet Sharon Williams
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 a registered childminder for approximately 20 years. She lives with her husband and two adult daughters near to the centre of Brixton in the London borough of Lambeth. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor, with toilet and sleeping facilities provided in this area. There is a garden at both the back and front which may be used by children under the direct supervision of the childminder. The childminder is registered to care for three children under eight years at any one time. She is currently caring for four children part time.

The family own a jird and fish.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn good hygiene habits. They are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet. Nappy changing routines include cleaning the changing mat and the childminder using disposable gloves. Good written procedures are in place for administering medication and accidents have clearly been recorded. All in which have been countersigned by parents on collection of their children.

Children's health and dietary needs are met through the childminder providing balanced nutritious meals, for example, varied meat, such as chicken served with a selection of fresh vegetables. Children's likes and dislikes and any special dietary requirements are discussed with parents prior to placement. Younger children are offered drinks at regular intervals and older children can request for one at any time.

Children have plenty of daily exercise, for example, they make use of the outdoor play areas at the children's groups and the childminder's garden where they have access to a range of outdoor equipment, such as bikes and sit and ride toys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe through the childminder taking most of the necessary safety precautions to minimise accidents, for example, smoke detectors are in place and a BS approved fire blanket is accessible in the kitchen. However, not all sockets that are not in use are covered and the stairs are accessible to younger children. On outing younger children are strapped in their pushchair and school age children are advised how to cross the road. For example, they know how to wait for the green man before crossing the road.

Children have appropriate space to move around freely and comfortably. They have access to a full range of toys and equipment that are suitable for their age and stage of development, for example, puzzles, large and small bricks, cars, trains, books, drawing and colouring materials, dolls and dressing up clothes.

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of many of the areas of abuse. She is aware of the signs and symptoms and knows what to do if she has concerns that a child may be at risk, for example, contacting the local social services. The childminder has completed a child protection awareness training course and has appropriate information relating to safeguarding and protecting children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have access to a varied range of activities and play materials that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Each day the childminder sets out a range of toys for children, which allows them the opportunity to choose activities for themselves. For example, younger children enjoy playing with large and small bricks, pushing and imitating the sounds of cars on the floor and relating to well known characters from picture books and the television. Older children benefit from art and craft; they recently made Easter baskets that were filled

with chocolate eggs by the childminder for them to take home. In addition children's day also include trips out to local childminder and children's groups, where they meet other children and adults, which contribute to teaching them good social skills.

Children are supported in their play through the childminder spending time interacting with them. She talks and listens to the children, takes time to explain about what they are doing which encourages their language development. Children are very happy, relaxed and their individual needs met effectively. This enables them to develop and learn in a stimulating and motivated environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have some opportunities to develop an awareness of other races, religions and cultures. They acknowledge many of the festivity events, such as Chinese New Year where they make lanterns and draw picture relating to the animal to what ever year it is. Children have access to a satisfactory range of toys and play materials that reflect diversity, such as, books, puzzles and dolls. However, the childminder has no resources to raise children's knowledge about disability.

The childminder is currently not caring for any children with learning difficulties or disabilities. However, she has a sound understanding of children with varying needs and is aware of her role and responsibilities. She would keep a written record, where she identifies concerns, such as a child not developing according to their age and stage of development, talk to parents and recommend they seek professional support or advise. The childminder is also happy to provide additional support with guidance to ensure that the well-being is effectively met.

Children are well behaved through being fully occupied. Good behaviour is encouraged through frequently praising the children with positive phrases such as 'well done'. Unacceptable behaviour is generally ignored; if necessary the children are removed from the situation. Behaviour management is also discussed with parent prior to placement.

Children are well cared for through establishing a good working relationship with parents. Information is verbally shared with parents daily. All the relevant information has been gathered including parents' and children's details. Parental permission has been obtained for outings and taking photographs. Although the childminder has written procedures in place for complaints, it does not include a contact address for Ofsted.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and satisfactory safe environment where they have many opportunities to play with a varied range of toys and play activities. The organisation of activities allows children to make their own choice about what they would like to do. The childminder has developed good relationships with the children. She offers continuity of care, and interacts in a caring, supportive manner, enabling the children to feel happy, settled and confident in her care. She enjoys their company and is fully aware of their individual needs.

There has been no changes to the household since the last inspection. However, the childminder has not completed and forwarded the Criminal Record Bureau forms for all household members over the age of 16 years.

Most of the mandatory and recommendation documentation are maintained and filed, for example, records of children's arrival and departure times. The childminder has some written policies in place, such as equality of opportunities, health and safety and accident and emergency procedures. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last children's act inspection the childminder was asked to make sure that the room used to store toys and equipment is made safe or inaccessible to children. This has satisfactorily been addressed, resources and play materials are appropriately organised to create a stimulating and accessible play and learning environment for children. Actions were also raised with regards to health and safety, for instance, hazards in the living room, no emergency evacuation procedure was in place or information on the exclusion of children if they are ill. The childminder also had limited information to what she would do if she had concerns of a child being at risk and her first aid certificate had expired.

The childminder since the last inspection has made most of the areas accessible to the children safe. Children know what to do in event of an emergency, written documentation include the exclusion of children to promote their health and well-being, the childminder has completed a first aid course for babies and young children and she is aware of what to do if she has concerns about a child being at risk, which enables her to safe guard and protect children in her care.

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 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):

- make sure the stairs are inaccessible to babies and younger children
- ensure sockets not in are inaccessible to children
- provide a range of resources and play materials to raise children's knowledge about disability
- ensure the complaints procedures include Ofsted's contact address

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