



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY332439
Inspection date	01 February 2007
Inspector	Rebecca Elizabeth Khabbazi
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 was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and one child aged 14 years old. The family live in a three bedroom bungalow in a residential area of Croydon. All of the premises is used for childminding. A garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years old, and there are currently two children on roll.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Croydon Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children begin to understand simple good personal hygiene practices when they wash their hands every day when they come in from school, and after they use the toilet. The childminder keeps the home very clean and tidy and takes careful precautions such as using a mat and washing her own hands when changing children's nappies. This helps protect children from the risk of cross-infection. Children have regular meals and snacks that fit in with their individual routines, and the childminder works with other professionals such as the Health Visitor to make sure any special dietary requirements are met.

Children enjoy regular exercise when they walk to school or visit the park, and the childminder encourages the physical development of young babies and sets them new challenges. This contributes to a healthy lifestyle. Children are taken good care of if they have an accident or are unwell because the childminder has an up to date first aid certificate and can respond appropriately to minor injuries. There are systems in place to keep a record of any accidents children have and any medicine they need to be given. However, parents have not given their written consent for the childminder to seek medical advice or treatment for their child in an emergency. This means their wishes about any action to be taken are not clear.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, well maintained environment. Their risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder takes steps to reduce potential hazards, for instance she keeps cleaning materials out of reach and fits covers to electrical sockets. The childminder makes sure toys are suitable for children's age and keeps play materials clean, which helps ensure children can play safely. She supervises children closely at all times, including when she takes them out of the home. However, parents have not yet been asked to provide written consent for children to be taken on outings.

The childminder has a basic understanding of child protection issues. She is clear about her responsibilities towards the children in her care, and is aware of the need to report any concerns. This helps safeguard children's welfare. However, she does not have a copy of the local child protection guidance available to ensure she can act quickly if required.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle quickly at the childminder's home. The childminder responds to them with warmth and affection and is attentive to their needs. Young babies smile and chat as she plays with them, enjoying lots of cuddles and attention. The childminder spends time playing and talking with older children, joining in a game of shopping or helping with reading and homework after school. Children benefit from a regular daily timetable that is based around their individual needs and routines. They take part in a suitable range of activities and experiences that support

their development and learning, with time to go out and to play at the childminder's home, to rest and to be active. They enjoy outings to the library to listen to stories and choose books, or a visit to play with friends. At the childminder's home they choose from a satisfactory assortment of toys and play materials which they can help themselves to as they wish. They enjoy role play, setting up the train track or colouring and drawing.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed into the setting and treated as individuals, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The childminder takes time to make sure she has all relevant information about children's needs before they start so that she can offer appropriate care. Children begin to learn to value diversity when they look at books that reflect positive images of the wider community. The childminder has a calm and gentle approach to managing their behaviour and makes sure she fully discusses any methods she uses or incidents that occur, with children's parents. This consistent approach helps children behave well.

Children benefit from positive working relationships between the childminder and their parents. The childminder values this relationship highly and recognises its importance in ensuring children experience consistent care. She speaks to parents every day to keep them informed about activities and events. There are written agreements with parents that outline most of the arrangements for the care of the children. However, some consents from parents have not been confirmed in writing.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has completed relevant childminding training and most of the required records that contribute to children's health, safety and welfare are in place. However, records of children's attendance are not always kept up to date as required. The childminder is aware of the need to keep a record of complaints made by parents, but does not have a copy of the relevant guidance or a system in place to ensure an appropriate record is maintained if needed. The childminder organises her home so that there is space for children to play, and makes sure toys are stored so that they can reach them easily. This helps children make the most of the play and learning opportunities provided. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- request written consent from parents to take children on outings and to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for their child if required
- obtain information about local child protection procedures
- establish a system for keeping a record of complaints in line with new requirements
- make sure records of children's attendance are kept up to date

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