



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY334362
Inspection date	26 October 2006
Inspector	Kay 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 good. 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 adult son. They live in Swiss Cottage, located within the London borough of Camden. The living room, hall way and main bedroom are used for childminding and there is an enclosed communal play area for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day.

The childminder attends the local toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted well as they are cared for in a hygienically clean home environment. They are prevented from the risk of cross infection as appropriate measures are taken to ensure that sick children are suitably cared for. Children's welfare is well supported through effective systems for recording accidents and all parents have given their permission for their children to receive emergency medical treatment. Children are learning about the importance of good personal hygiene as they wash their hands before eating and when they arrive home from playing in the park. They are also encouraged to clean their teeth after their lunch which promotes good oral hygiene.

Children are offered healthy, nutritious home cooked meals. They benefit from the childminder's sound knowledge of healthy eating and enjoy eating foods such as omelette, salad and fresh fruit. They have independent access to drinking water and parents are advised of the childminder's no "junk" food policy.

Children have fun during daily outings which offer them opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise. They walk to the local park and toddler groups where they can engage in a variety of robust physical play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the warm caring environment that the childminder has created for them. They are secure in her care as they clearly enjoy each other's company. Children are settled and comfortable in the childminder's home as she makes them welcome, consequently they make themselves at home. The childminder has a reasonable regard for safety, for example, the children are always supervised when they are in the kitchen as this is a high risk area. However, children are less well protected in other areas. There are no smoke detectors fitted within the premises, no fire blanket in the kitchen and there are some hazardous substances within easy reach in the toilet.

Children enjoy playing with a varied range of age appropriate well maintained equipment. There is a good amount of clear floor space for them to organise their play. Resources are easily accessible and children help themselves to play materials such as play dough, books and puzzles.

Children benefit from the childminder's good knowledge of first aid procedures and she is currently studying for a formal first aid qualification. Children's welfare is protected as the childminder has sound knowledge of child protection issues and knows how to respond accordingly to assure the children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time spent with the childminder. They have developed a strong bond with her and enjoy snuggling on the sofa in order to read a book together. They laugh and joke with the childminder as they chat happily within the warm friendly atmosphere. The childminder spends good amounts of time playing with the children. Children are extending their language development as they confidently discuss their planned visit to the library, asking "are we still going to the library because the lady is here?"

Children have developed positive relationships with their peers. They play cooperatively together as they initiate their own games. As the children get dressed after their nap, they put their clothes into a cardboard box which they had used earlier in the day as a dolls bed. This time the box is a washing machine and they take turns to shake the box until they are satisfied that their clothes are clean. This activity stretches their imagination as well as allowing them to act out familiar routines as they learn to make sense of their world while also experiencing handling natural materials. Children are developing their understanding of the world in which they live further still as they enjoy daily outings within the local community. They go shopping for food where the children are encouraged to identify and buy the vegetables they need for their lunch or they go to the post office to mail a letter or simply to enjoy a ride on the bus. They enjoy regular outings to the park where they develop their skills for climbing, balancing and swinging on the apparatus or strengthen their muscles as they climb up and down Primrose Hill.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and daily routines centre around their needs, they sleep and eat according to their usual routines. They are developing a strong sense of belonging as they can easily access their own personal possessions as they know where they are kept, for example they know that their coats are hung near to the front door. They are learning about their own culture and those of others as they enjoy different cultural stories as read to them at the local library and they recently experienced the Hindu festival of Diwali as they celebrated this at the toddler group.

Children are very well behaved. They feel comfortable and confident within the relaxed calm environment where they know what is expected of them. Children are caring of each other, fetching clothes for one another as they dress after their nap. Children receive lots of praise and recognition as the childminder reminds them of things they have done well. She has a good understanding of managing children's behaviour and this is supported by her written policy which is consistently implemented.

Children's continuity of care is enhanced as the childminder has good relationships with the parents. They communicate openly and consequently the childminder knows the children well. Parents are offered detailed information about the service they receive and have taken the time to express in writing how satisfied they are with the care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the well organised environment that the childminder provides for them. Documentation and record keeping is efficiently collated and is easy for the childminder to reference. The childminder has developed a portfolio which contains lots of written information about the service she provides including her policies and procedure. This is well written and presented to parents for their information. They are given copies of some of the documentation including: their contract, terms and conditions and a copy of the childminder's certificate of registration.

All of the required written consents has been sought and the record of the children's attendance is accurate and up to date. The childminder is currently attending a training course and is committed to continuing to update her knowledge in the future. This will enable her to continue to develop her good practice which will be of benefit to the children in her care.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it 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 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):

- improve the provision for children's safety by installing appropriate smoke detectors, a fire blanket and ensure that all hazardous substances are stored out of the reach of children.

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