



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	124864
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 March 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Rebecca Elizabeth Khabbazi
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 1997. She lives with her husband and 6 children aged 15, 12, 9, 6 and 3 years and under 1 year old. The family live in a 5 bedroom house in a residential area of Sanderstead, in Croydon. All of the house is used for childminding, with downstairs the main area used for play. A garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder works jointly with her husband, who is also a registered childminder. She is registered to care for 3 children under 8 years old when working on her own, and a total of 5 children under 8 years when working with her husband. There are currently 3 children aged under 8 on roll. The childminder also cares for children over 8 years old, and is registered to provide overnight care for 2 children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Croydon Childminding Association. She is a member of a childminding support group and acts as a support childminder.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home. They learn about simple good hygiene practices when they wash their hands before they eat and after using the toilet. The childminder makes sure liquid soap and paper towels are available, and follows clear procedures for changing nappies. This all helps reduce the risk of cross-contamination. Children benefit from varied, nutritious meals and snacks that meet their individual needs, and regular drinks ensure they are well hydrated. They begin to learn about healthy eating when they talk about food that is good for you and help peel and prepare vegetables for tea, and when they are encouraged to try new things at mealtimes.

Children take part in regular physical activity that contributes to a healthy lifestyle. They enjoy spending time playing in the garden, where they can use a variety of outdoor play equipment such as a climbing frame and a slide, and go on regular outings to the park or for walks.

Children's health is protected because the childminder has a system for keeping records about their needs, any accidents they have and any medication they need to be given. However, parents have not yet been asked to sign a specific written consent for the childminder to seek medical advice or treatment for their child in an emergency. This means that parents' wishes regarding action to be taken are not clear.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a welcoming, well-maintained childminding environment, with facilities to meet their needs. They have access to a child-centred playroom where they can easily choose from a wide selection of clean, good quality toys and play materials which are suitable for their age and stage of development. This helps ensure they can play safely.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder takes effective steps to identify and reduce any potential hazards. For example, access to the stairs is restricted, and cleaning materials are kept in a high cupboard in the kitchen. Fire safety precautions such as the fire blanket, smoke alarms and regular fire practices with the children help reduce the risk of children being exposed to harm from a fire. The downstairs of the house and the garden are all secure, which ensures children cannot leave the premises unsupervised. However, upstairs' rooms will now be used for children staying overnight and windows in the bedrooms cannot currently be locked or have their opening restricted to ensure the home is secure at night.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has completed child protection training, and has a clear understanding of what to do if she is worried about a child.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are settled and confident at the childminder's home. They have good relationships with the childminder, who spends time talking and playing with them, and shows an interest in what they say and do.

Children take part in a broad range of planned activities and spontaneous events that support their development and learning. For younger children there is a familiar daily routine for going out, mealtimes and resting, which helps children feel secure. They enjoy daily outings with the childminder, who has a good knowledge of local resources. They may, for instance, go on a visit to a childminding group to socialise with other children; to a soft play centre for a run and tumble; or to the library to join in with singing during 'Rhyme Time'. Older children take part in planned art and craft activities such as making cards, play dough or drawing when they come in after school, as well as free choice activities and time to relax with their friends. They enjoy daily activities such as helping prepare vegetables for tea, as well as initiating their own games, such as a competition or a quiz.

The childminder has started to make good use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to make observations of younger children and use them to begin to think about how to provide activities for the next steps in their development and learning.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the setting and valued as individuals. Daily routines and activities are planned around the needs of the children attending, which ensures they are all included and can take an equal part. For example, the childminder makes sure that she matches younger children's home routines so they settle in quickly. Children begin to develop a positive view of the wider community when they use resources such as puzzles and books which reflect positive images of diversity, and when they try some Chinese food to celebrate Chinese New Year. The childminder has a positive approach to managing children's behaviour, which helps children learn to play harmoniously together.

Children benefit from good relationships between the childminder and their parents. They talk every day to exchange information, and the childminder also uses a daily diary for younger children to keep parents up-to-date. This effective communication helps ensure children experience consistent care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder keeps all of the required records that contribute to children's health, safety and wellbeing, but has not yet devised a system for keeping a log of complaints made by parents. This is a new requirement. Records are well-organised and readily accessible. A portfolio and additional policies and procedures provide clear information for parents about the setting.

Children are cared for in a child-centred, well-organised environment where they have ample safe space to play, easy access to toys and play materials and where the day is planned around their needs. This means they can make the most of the play and learning opportunities provided. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection the childminder has continued to plan a variety of play opportunities for younger children outside the home, including regular visits to pre-school groups where they socialise with other children. She has also started to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to further promote positive outcomes for young children.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- request written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- improve security of the upstairs' windows by making sure they can be locked if necessary
- devise a system for keeping a log of complaints made by parents

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)