



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	159441
Inspection date	10 July 2006
Inspector	Audrey Opal Ufot
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 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged seventeen and twelve in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The whole of the first floor and one room on the ground floor of the childminder's flat is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five all day. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group. The family has no pets.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment, which contributes to their good health by reducing the risk of infection. They participate in appropriate personal hygiene routines such as washing hands before and after meals. Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has implemented procedures for accidents and medication. Although parents' written permission has not been obtained to seek emergency treatment. The childminder has a first aid box, however it is not complete and the first aid certificate has expired.

The dietary needs of the children are generally well met as the parents supply the food for the children; the childminder prepares the food in accordance with parents wishes and provides regular drinks to ensure children are appropriately nourished.

Children participate in a range of daily indoor and outdoor play activities, for fresh air and exercise which promotes their wellbeing and helps them to acquire good physical skills. For example they crawl around, visits the local parks, one o'clock club, and use the garden, where they can run, jump play football use large apparatus such as a swing, slide and ride large cars and bikes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are able to move around the house safely as the childminder has minimised risks in the home. A varied range of age appropriate resources are available, with some meeting safety standards. However the toys are not suitably clean. Resources are stored at a low level enabling children to exercise choice and make decisions.

The childminder has some of the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, the childminder has public liability insurance and ensures that her smoke alarm is in working order.

Children are encouraged to tidy away toys when they have finished playing to avoid tripping hazards. However the high chairs do not have safety harnesses fixed to them. The childminder closely supervises the children when out of the home, for example they discuss road safety and hold the childminder's hands. The childminder has some knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures, although she is less secure about who to refer child protection concerns to.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident in the setting and settle quickly into play with developmentally appropriate activities. Children with support of the childminder enjoy making choices from a range of toys that are of interest to them and access them independently. The childminder

rotates the range of toys available to them to provide variety. Children explore the living world as they play with animal pop-up activity set.

The childminder encourages the children to extend their vocabulary by engaging them in conversations regarding their experiences. For example children making bubble sounds in response to the childminder's interaction. They enjoy exploring a range of resources which contribute to their imagination such as role play materials in the home corner. Children are progressing in all areas of their development like recognising colours as the childminder has a sound understanding of how children learn and make progress through play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are secure and comfortable because parents share information about their child's individual needs, interests and experiences with the childminder. They are relaxed and have a caring relationship with the childminder. For example she comforts them in her arm. Children are developing a sense of identity as they learn about the world they live in through regularly attending one o'clock club where they can socialise with other children and adults of the diverse community. Although there are no toys and equipment to promote cultural images and disability.

Children's behaviour is managed by a variety of strategies depending on the child's age and understanding. The children currently cared for do not have special dietary needs. The childminder is open to caring for children with special needs but would seek additional training if necessary, although the premises do not have access for wheelchair users.

The children's needs are generally well met because the childminder ensures that she shares information with parents about their child's routines. The childminder gathers appropriate information regarding children's care, as a result children are treated as individuals and experience continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are welcome, safe and settled in the childminder's home. This means they are confident and happy to play and develop their learning. Policies and procedures are satisfactorily in place. However, household members over the age of 16 years have not been CRB checked to safeguard children's safety.

Regular discussions with parents ensure they are well informed about their children's progress. The childminder has allowed her first aid qualification to expire, although her childminding certificate is appropriately displayed. Children enjoy a variety of outings to the local park and one o'clock club where they can socialise with other children and widen their play experiences. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder informed that she had not yet developed a written procedure to record complaint, but has available Ofsted's contact details available for parents. She also said she was not aware of the new requirement for her to keep a record of complaints made by parents. She said she will contact her local authority Children Information Services for guidance on this with immediate effect to have this in place. The childminder said she does not have written policies for behaviour management and sick children, but informs parents at the beginning of childminding arrangements that she would work in partnership with them regarding behaviour management to have consistency, and that she does not care for children when they are sick. She said she does not follow a written plan of activities for children but plans mentally, for example she display toys and activity sets on the floor before children arrive to entice and welcome them. The childminder has taken positive steps to promote safety within the setting as all telephone wires are now inaccessible to the 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 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):

- complete a first aid course which includes first aid for infants and young children
- ensure the first aid box is stocked and maintained
- ensure written permission is obtained to seek treatment in the event of an emergency
- ensure that there are suitable safety harnesses fixed to the high chairs to ensure children's safety is promoted
- ensure toys and play equipment are suitably clean and maintained
- ensure that there are sufficient toys and equipment to promote cultural images and disability

- gain knowledge and understanding of local Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) guidance and procedures
- ensure all household members over the age of 16 years are suitable CRB checked.

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