



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	107147
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Jacqueline Davies
<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 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 1994. She lives with her husband, two adult sons and child aged 14 years in a three bedroom maisonette in the London Borough of Southwark. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a garden available for outside play. The property is close to local schools, parks and transport services.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding six children on a part time basis. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group and childminding group. The childminder is a member of the Southwark Child Minding Association (SCMA). The family have one cat.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment because the childminder has a well established cleaning and hygiene routine. Children are encouraged to develop good personal hygiene habits by washing their hands before meals and snacks and after playing in the park or garden. This helps to protect children's health and minimise the risk of infection. The childminder keeps appropriate records of any medication and ensures that she shares this information with parents. She is aware of procedures to follow should a child in her care require emergency treatment or medical advice and has obtained written permission from parents to seek further treatment if an emergency situation occurred. So as a result children's health and wellbeing is promoted.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities and experiences that contributes to their good health and physical development. They are encouraged to be active and regularly participate in a good range of outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies. For example regular visits to the park enable children to have access to larger equipment such as the swings and slide, helping to keep them fit and enjoy a healthy lifestyle. Children benefit from a healthy diet because they are offered regular drinks and are encouraged to try a varied range of meals which include a variety of vegetables and fruit. The childminder actively ensures that children are well nourished and that any special dietary requirements are met.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe environment because the childminder takes some suitable precautions to protect them from harm. They are helped to stay safe through the use of safety gates, which are positioned to prevent unsupervised access to areas such as the lower and upper landing. However children's welfare is not entirely safeguarded as the lower kitchen cupboards contain hazardous items such as detergents and an electrical iron. Knives stored in the kitchen drawer are a potential hazard because they are easily accessible to children. The childminder has paid close attention to fire safety by ensuring that smoke detectors are fitted on the premises and has emergency evacuation procedures in place. A fire blanket is also available but has not been fitted according to the manufacturers instructions, which could compromise children's safety.

The good organisation of well maintained toys and equipment means children can move around safely and independently. Consideration is given to children's safety when taking children out to the local park as the childminder ensures that they are supervised appropriately. The childminder has a sound knowledge of first aid and holds a current first aid certificate which enables her to respond to accidents appropriately should an accident occur. However she has not ensured that parents consistently sign the accident form after reporting an accident to them, which means that children's welfare is not entirely safeguarded. The childminder has devised a basic child protection procedure and has up to date child protection guidance in line

with the local authority child protection procedures. This enables her to respond appropriately should concerns arise.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has created a calm and welcoming environment which enables the children to settle easily and play confidently. They enjoy taking part in a good range of activities and stimulating experiences, for example, small world imaginative play, looking at books and regular visits to the park. They socialise with other children through regular attendance at local toddler groups, library and a variety of community groups, developing their confidence and social skills. Children are encouraged to be independent and can easily access a good range of toys and equipment that is both age and developmentally appropriate. Additional equipment is stored in the hallway which the childminder rotates to provide interest and variety and extend children's learning.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures that children follow their normal daily routine as discussed with parents so that they experience continuity of care. She has developed a good relationship with parents and keeps them fully informed of their children's care and progress on a daily basis. Children behave very well and are learning the difference between right and wrong through consistent boundaries, expectations and praise. This helps children feel secure and have good self esteem. The childminder has a positive attitude regarding the inclusion of children who may be identified as having special educational needs. Although none attend at present she is happy to work with parents to meet individual needs.

Resources that promote a positive view of the wider world are available to children. They have access to a good range of books and toys that help them to become aware of differences and develop respect for others. For example they can use resources such as dolls that reflect different types of disability, puzzles and taste a variety of Mediterranean dishes at mealtimes. Children learn about nature and their local environment when visiting the park and participate in activities such as feeding the ducks. This helps them to strengthen their ideas and interests about the world in which they live.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally organised environment and have space to participate in a range of flexible activities, enabling their individual needs to be met. The premises are generally safe however steps have not been taken to minimise all hazards in the kitchen area. Appropriate records are kept relating to childminding activities which enables children's needs to be met. However children's welfare is not entirely safeguarded as the childminder has not ensured that parents sign the accident forms after each entry or kept the children's attendance register up to date.

The childminder is experienced in childcare and has a sound knowledge of the children she is caring for. She has attended recent training such as child protection and disability awareness which helps promote children's learning and enhance her childcare practice and knowledge. She has devised comprehensive written policies and procedures which helps to promote the welfare and safety of children. She shares them regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

The previous care inspection recommended that the childminder devise and implement a sickness policy for parents, purchase equipment reflecting disabilities and keep an up to date register. Since the last inspection, the childminder has made some improvements to the service that she provides. A sickness policy is now in place and is available to all parents. This helps to promote the health and welfare of the children. The childminder has also purchased a selection of toys reflecting a range of disabilities which helps to strengthen children's knowledge of diversity. However children's welfare is not entirely safeguarded as she has not kept the register up to date.

### **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):

- ensure that hazard items are not easily accessible to children and that the fire blanket is fitted according to the manufacturers instructions
- ensure that parental signatures are obtained when using accident forms
- Keep an up to date register of children's attendance

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)