



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY308409
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 October 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Mauvene Burke
<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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2005. She lives with her 11 year old daughter in the Battersea area within the London borough of Wandsworth. They live in a two-bedroom high rise flat which is situated within close proximity of shops, local amenities and transport facilities. The rooms available for children to use include the living room and the childminder's bedroom. Occasionally, the childminder's daughter's bedroom may be used during the day and for overnight care. Children do not have access to the kitchen. The childminder regularly works with an assistant childminder.

The childminder is registered to provide care for two children under eight years. She currently cares for two children who are both aged 27 months. One of the children attends on a full time basis whilst the other child was on a trial period during the time that the inspection was carried out.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She receives support and training from the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children's welfare regarding their health is maintained because the childminder has the required documentation in place regarding accidents and the administration of medication. She works closely with parents to ensure they are aware of the policy regarding the exclusion of sick children. Children's welfare is further promoted because the childminder has a valid first aid certificate enabling her to provide treatment in a medical emergency. However, she has not obtained written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children are not encouraged to wash their hands before meals as the childminder does not talk to them about the importance of this; in addition to this the childminder and her assistant do not always wash their hands before preparing children's meals or after nappy changes.

Children enjoy healthy traditional Ghanaian meals that are provided for them by their parent and sometimes by the childminder. Healthy snacks such as fruits are provided by the children's parents. Children are not made aware that fresh drinking water is available to them during the day and are not encouraged to ask for a drink. Children have a drink after lunch but are not offered another drink during the day.

Children engage in some physical exercise such as through music and movement, but do not receive regular opportunities to get fresh air as they are not taken out on a daily basis.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children are restricted in their movement in this environment because of the limited amount of space available to them. The childminder has tried to make the most of the space available to the children by creating a separate area in the living room where children can access toys easily and play in the designated space.

Children's safety is being compromised in this environment because the childminder has not identified potential hazards in the home, for example, tablets are left lying around which are easily accessible to the children and there is no evacuation procedure in place. In addition to this, children's welfare and well being is not sufficiently safeguarded as the childminder does not have a secure knowledge of child protection or the procedures to be followed if she had concerns about a child.

Children do not benefit from the equipment and toys available to them as most of what they have access to, are not age appropriate or safe. For example, broken toys and torn books are kept in the toy box and the majority of the toys are more geared toward children under 18 months. Arrangements for eating meals are also unsuitable, for example, children are not given

the opportunity to be independent because they are fed by the childminder or the assistant as there is no table for them to sit around comfortably.

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

The provision is inadequate.

The environment in which children are cared for does not provide them with enough opportunities to be creative or build on their natural curiosity as learners. Their language is not being developed and they have little opportunity to use their imagination. This is mainly because of the childminder's weak knowledge of child development and her lack of understanding about how children learn through their play. Children's language is not being encouraged because the childminder speaks very little to them and when she does, it is usually in a directive manner for example, 'no', 'don't do that', 'come and sit here', 'play with something else'. Children do not have opportunities to interact with other children in a group setting as the childminder has not yet established links with toddler groups within her area. Children spend far too much time in front of the television often watching programmes that are not appropriate for their age. Although the childminder has attended training in the Birth to three matters, she has not implemented any of the framework into her day to day practices.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children's basic daily care routines are met, as the childminder undertakes discussions with parents at the beginning of each placement to establish all relevant information regarding their child such as their eating and sleeping patterns and any allergies the children may have. Children's individual needs are met as the childminder follows their cue. She also shares information with parents about their child's day and uses the written contracts to inform them about her childminding practice.

Children are not given any opportunities to learn about or value other cultures and family backgrounds as the childminder does not provide resources which reflect diversity. However, the childminder currently cares for children who share the same cultural background as herself and her family, as a result, the children are encouraged language they are familiar with from home.

Children's behaviour is sometimes quite poor, mainly because they are not occupied during the day and so as a result, become restless and bored. Children do not know how to share and are not being encouraged to take turns so they often end up squabbling over equipment, such as the small chair and the drum. The childminder's methods of guidance does little to help children to behave appropriately or to share. Methods used by the childminder are inappropriate for the age and stage of the minded children's development, for example, having the children sit down for 20 minutes and through the use of threats.

## Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Although the childminder has attended a number of useful and relevant training courses such as the Birth to three matters, she has been unable to put any of this information into practice, and though she recently attended child protection training, she continues to have a lack of understanding and knowledge of signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures she would be expected to follow.

The outcomes for children are inadequate as a result of the childminder's insecure knowledge and understanding of what constitutes good quality care and also because of the failure to comply with the National Standards and regulations. The childminder is in breach of registration regulations and conditions in that with regards to the former, she does not keep a record of the children's hours of attendance and with regards to the latter, she has not ensured that her minded children's parents have given written consent for her assistant to be left in sole charge of the children. As a result of this, children's safety and their well-being is being compromised and overall, limits their potential to develop to their full potential.

The childminder does not meet 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:

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## WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

### The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that parents provide written consent at agreed times, for the assistant to be in sole charge of children

- improve your knowledge and understanding of the developmental needs of children and provide a suitable range of activities using an approach in line with the Birth to three matters framework
- maintain a daily record of the names of the children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance
- provide a suitable range of equipment to meet the developmental needs of children from 2 years old
- assess the risks to children in relation to the storage of medication and the evacuation procedure and take action to minimise these
- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- develop a suitable range of resources which reflects diversity
- develop your awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development
- develop your knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, including the procedures to follow if you are concerned about a child's welfare
- improve hand washing procedures, ensure children are aware of the importance of keeping themselves healthy and make sure children have access to fresh drinking water at all times

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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)