



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122931
Inspection date	14 December 2006
Inspector	Janet Sharon 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 satisfactory. 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 1991. She lives in Tooting, South West London, and her home is within close proximity of shops, local amenities and transport facilities.

The childminder lives with her husband.

The ground floor of the property is used for childminding, consisting of a kitchen/diner, shower room, rear reception room and front sitting room. The sitting room is used for children to sleep or rest. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder currently cares for five children aged from one year to four years of age. She only cares for three children at any one time. The childminder takes children to and from school.

The childminder is a member of the Wandsworth Childminding Association and also undertakes work as a specialist childminder for the local authority social services department. She receives support and training from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment, where some good hygiene habits are put into practice. For example, children's hands are washed before and after meals and the childminder ensures areas used by the children are kept clean, such as nappy changing facilities cleaned prior changing each child. Although the childminder wears gloves for nappy changing she does not change them before changing individual children to avoid cross contamination and a few of the toys are a little dirty.

Good procedures are in place to record accidents and medication administered. The childminder has an up to date first aid certificate for babies and young children and a first aid box to provide appropriate medical care in event of an accident.

Children's meals are provided by parents and the childminder works well with parents to ensure children have their health and dietary needs met. Children are offered drinks at regular intervals as consideration for those who are unable to ask for themselves.

Children benefit from a range of outdoor activities on a regular basis which contributes to their good health and extends their physical skills. For example, they enjoy the freedom of outdoors through making use of the children's playground.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe environment indoors and out. They are supervised at all times. Most areas accessible to the children are safe because the childminder has taken of necessary precautions to minimise accidents. For example, the childminder has clear written fire evacuation procedures in place; there is a BS approved fire blanket fitted in the kitchen; areas inaccessible to the children are fitted with a stairgate and on outings children are strapped into the appropriate car seat. However, the childminder's smoke detector is not in working order.

Children have appropriate space to move around comfortably. They access and use suitable and safe equipment, for example, activity centres, bricks, cars, puzzles and stacking toys. Children are able to help themselves and enjoy what they want to play with, as resources are stored at child's level. The childminder regularly checks toys and equipment to ensure that they are safe and in good condition.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and protected as the childminder has a satisfactory working knowledge of child protection, enabling her to assess risk and protect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a satisfactory range of activities, both within the home setting and wider environment. Resources and equipment are age and stage appropriate. For example, older children participate in art and craft, rolling and cutting play dough and benefit from playing with dolls and a play kitchen. Younger children enjoy crawling around, pulling themselves up and accessing resources freely. Children also benefit through socialising with other children and adults, they frequently visit local children's groups.

Children's individual needs and routines are met in an environment where the childminder has structured routines to enable children to develop and learn through play. The childminder spends time interacting with the children, such as talking, reading them stories and showing an interest in what they are doing.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are taken out and cared for in a diverse community. Although the childminder talks to children about other people of the world, she has few resources to promote diversity and disability. The childminder respects individuality of each child.

Children relate well to the childminder. Minimal behaviour management is required as the children are fully occupied. Children are beginning to understand the difference between right and wrong. Children feel valued because the childminder puts considerable care into meeting their individual needs. She has a satisfactory understanding of the issues surrounding the care of children with special needs and where necessary would seek professional support or advice.

The childminder and parents keep each other fully informed about the children at all times. Children's details are gathered at the beginning of placement to enable the childminder to develop a trusting and mutual supportive partnership with parents and this benefits the children's wellbeing and welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a organised environment, providing suitable areas for resting, playing, sleeping and time outdoors. Although some health and safety issues have not been maintained, the childminder's ratio positively supports children's care and development. All of the relevant documentation and records are in place, kept up to date and are easily accessible. Children are appropriately cared for because the childminder uses the information she holds to promote children's wellbeing.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to plan a suitable range of activities for children which are appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs explained in the Birth to three matters; develop an understanding of how children develop and learn through play; ensure children have access to fresh drinking water; extend understanding of the child protection issues and procedures; improve hand washing procedures and ensure children are aware of the importance of keeping themselves healthy. Most have been satisfactorily addressed to meet with the wellbeing and protection of children.

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 you establish hygiene procedures in relations to nappy changing and cleanliness of toys
- make sure the smoke detector is in working order
- improved resources that reflect diversity and to raise children's awareness about disability

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