



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY239617
Inspection date	20 March 2007
Inspector	Angela Ramsey
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 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 September 2003. She is currently caring for two children one child aged three years and another aged five months. She lives with her daughter and her foster son aged ten. They live in a first floor flat in the London Borough of Wandsworth. Their home is within walking distance of local parks and various under five groups.

Children have access to the sitting room, one of the bedrooms for sleeping, and the toilet and bathroom. Children do not have access to the balcony at any time.

The family have no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well protected through good practices, such as washing hands before eating meals and snacks and after using the bathroom. Children are also encouraged to brush their teeth after eating their lunch. The effective recording of emergency contacts, medication permission and accidents promotes children's health and well-being. Opportunities for physical activities which contribute to children's good health are provided. They go to the local park where they are able to run, skip and jump and enjoy being out in the fresh air. The childminder also takes the children to a one o'clock club where they are able to climb on the climbing frame and ride wheeled toys as well as enjoy playing indoors.

Arrangements for meals and drinks are discussed with parents so that children's individual dietary needs are met. The childminder is aware of the importance of a healthy diet and has devised menus which reflect this. Nutritious meals and snacks which includes fresh fruit and vegetables are prepared. Children are regularly offered drinks throughout the day and the childminder has a good understanding of when the children may need extra drinks, for example after physical activities. Children can also request a drink at any time.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment where positive steps to promote safety within the childminder's home and when on outings have been identified. For example, a stair gate, fire guard and smoke alarm are in place. Appropriate fire safety equipment is in place, there is a written emergency evacuation procedure and fire drills are practised with older children.

The children have access to a good range of developmentally appropriate toys and resources. The childminder's sitting room is a dedicated playroom which is well organised so that children can access most toys freely, which increases their confidence and independence.

The childminder monitors and supervises the children whilst they are in her home and when on outings to ensure their safety. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse, and the procedure to follow if she had any concerns. This ensures children's welfare is safe guarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has developed a positive relationship with the children in her care. The childminder interacts and communicates well with the children. She responds to their questions which enhances their language skills.

The children benefit from a good range of activities and resources, planned by the childminder to help them to gain new skills and knowledge. Children are able to be creative making collages, build with constructions toys such as Lego, complete puzzles and use dressing up clothes to enhance their role play. Younger children are able to explore cause and effect toys which are bright and colourful. The childminder has attended training of the Birth to three matters framework and incorporates her knowledge in the activities she provides.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures that all children are treated fairly and equally. She respects individual needs and takes into account age differences between the children. The childminder has a varied selection of resources and also uses the local toy library. Children learn about their local community as they go for walks to the park and to the one o'clock club where the children are able to socialise with other children.

The childminder has a good understanding of the issues for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She is committed to working closely with parents and attending any relevant training to ensure that individual needs are met.

Children are well behaved because the childminder uses positive strategies for managing behaviour, which are appropriate to the children's ages and stages of maturity. The childminder encourages children to be polite and gives praise and encouragement for their achievements. She has a written behaviour policy in place and helps children to learn right from wrong through discussion.

Children benefit from a positive partnership with parents. Parents are given a copy of the childminder's policies and procedures at the initial meeting and children's individual needs are discussed. Parents are also requested to provide written consent for outings. The childminder keeps parents informed about their children's care and development through daily verbal feedback.

The childminder has a complaints procedure in place, however the contact details of the regulator is not included. Childminder has references from the parents of children she has previously cared for. Parents' commented that the childminder is trustworthy and totally committed to her profession.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has completed all mandatory childminder training and uses the knowledge and skills she has gained to care for children. The childminder has recently given a talk to prospective childminders who are considering this form of childcare as a profession.

Space within the childminder's home is used appropriately to cater for children's needs, allowing them to move around independently and freely choose toys. Adult to child ratios are maintained and an up to date register is used to record daily attendance of children.

Records are appropriately maintained, accessible and stored securely and confidentially to meet regulations and safeguard children. The childminder has devised some policies and procedures which are used well to promote the welfare, care and learning of children.

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 increase the variety and range of play equipment available for children, including the range of play equipment and books that reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability. Restrict the opening of windows in rooms used for minding and obtain written parental consent for taking children on outings and transporting children in a vehicle.

The childminder has obtained multicultural books and uses the toy library for other resources. Restrictors have been fitted to the windows and written parental consent for taking children on outings and using public transport is obtained.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004, Ofsted received one complaint relating to National Standard 2: Organisation. This involved the childminder leaving a minded child in the care of an unregistered person. A childcare inspector visited the childminder and she apologised to the parent and provided her written assurance that this situation would not happen again.

The childminder remains qualified for registration.

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):

- ensure the contact details for the regulator is included in complaints procedure

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