



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY338065
Inspection date	24 January 2007
Inspector	Lisa-Marie Jones
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 August 2006. The childminder lives with her three children aged 12, 14 and 16 years old. The family live in a three bedroom house in a residential area of Addiscombe, which is within the London borough of Croydon. The downstairs of the house is the main area used for childminding. A secure garden is available for outdoor play

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight. Currently there are two children on roll who are cared for on a part time and full time basis. The childminder makes use of local community resources such as the library and local toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder follows effective written health, safety policies and procedures to promote the good health of children. Parents have access to written policies relating to sickness and exclusion times for children when they are ill and adhere to them. All documentation for the recording of accidents and the administration of medication are all accurate. Children with additional medical needs have written programmes which are followed, therefore ensuring that all their individual needs are met and they are kept well. The childminder has a current first aid certificate and has a first aid kit, however parents have not given their consent for the childminder to seek any emergency first aid treatment or advice should the need arise.

Children thrive due to the childminder paying particular attention to children's dietary needs and encouraging the children to try a variety of healthy, nutritious food that are either supplied by the parents or freshly prepared by the childminder. Written policies highlight the types of healthy meals she provides.

Children take part in a range of physical activity which contributes to a healthy lifestyle. They enjoy daily trips to toddler groups where they can use wheeled vehicles and climbing apparatus. The childminder encourages the children to develop their walking skills when at the local parks and through pushing dolls prams in the garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises is very safe and secure for its purpose and children have adequate space to play and rest in a warm and comfortable environment. The childminder takes positive steps to promote safety within the home and on outings and has put in place safety precautions such as socket covers and safety gates across the stairs, this ensures that children can move safely and independently around the home. There are written fire evacuations procedures to follow and smoke alarms are in place at each level of the house.

All toys and equipment are readily accessible to children and stored at a low level so they can initiate their own play. All toys are in good working order and are appropriate for all the children's age and stage of development.

The childminder follows written procedures to ensure that children are safeguarded in her care. She demonstrates a secure knowledge of child protection procedures and fully understands her role and responsibilities in keeping children protected. She has all the information she needs to contact the relevant agencies should she be concerned about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder makes it her priority to ensure that all children's needs are met and their welfare is promoted. She gathers as much information as she can from the parents before the child is placed in her care, and ensures that they have a good settling period so that everyone gets to know each other well. She clearly demonstrates how the children have progressed in her care and what activities that she has done with the children to help them make progress in their overall development. She ensures that children are comfortable in any environment she takes them to, therefore eliminating their anxiety to try new experiences.

Children initiate their own play and enjoy taking part in a range of activities that are appropriate for their development. Every day they have the opportunity to take part in creative activities such as painting and play dough, she ensures that all activities are adapted to suit the needs of all the children so they can enjoy them at their own level. The childminder has some knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework, and is planning to implement it into her practice to further the children's development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Equality of opportunity and anti discriminatory practice for all children is actively promoted as the childminder is skilled in ensuring that all children's individual needs are met. She is able to converse with children fluently in both English and Italian should they speak additional languages. She ensures that all children are included in activities and that they are encouraged to have a positive view of the wider community. She does this through providing a range of meaningful toys and activities and by extending on the children's experiences.

The childminder is very aware that some children have specific needs and is very proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. She has a very good understanding of the importance of working in partnership with parents and other professionals to promote their development.

The childminder follows good written strategies for managing children's behaviour, which are agreed with parents, therefore behaviour is good.

Children benefit greatly from the consistent care between their parents and the childminder. The childminder is very good at communicating with parents and keeping them informed about the services that she provides by sharing her written policies and procedures. However parents are not aware of the complaints procedures and a log of complaints is not in place. A written daily diary of events that have taken place are shared with the parents every day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The environment is organised well and very welcoming and safe, which means that children are comfortable in their surroundings and they can access toys and resources independently to initiate their own play.

The childminder has devised relevant written policies, procedures that all parents have access to. All records that are required for the safe and effective management of the provision and to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are in place and up to date.

The childminder meets 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 require 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 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):

- obtain parental permission to seek emergency first aid treatment or advice
- devise and implement a complaints policy and procedures for recording any complaints

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