



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 138011 |
| Inspection date | 17 May 2005 |
| Inspector | Judith Mary Scott |

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| 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 1992. She lives with her husband and adult daughter. The family live in a three bedroomed, terraced house in Mitcham. There are local shops, a park, a library, schools and transport links within walking distance. The whole house is used for minding apart from her daughter's bedroom. Younger children are supervised when using the bathroom on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family have no pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends training workshops. She has Part One of the Developing Childminding Practice qualification. She is also a specialist childminder. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently

minding four children on a full time and part time basis. She also cares for two children over eight before and after school and in the school holidays.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well organised home that is warm and welcoming to children and their families. Children receive good physical and emotional care and are able to express their feelings.

Children benefit from healthy, nutritious meals and a menu plan is available to parents. The childminder does encourage healthy eating but has reached a compromise with parents regarding after school snacks. The children are allowed two items of their own choice and then they have fruit. The baby's food and bottles are provided by his parent and the childminder follows his home routine.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through daily routines, such as washing their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Appropriate nappy changing facilities are in place.

The children use the outdoor play area daily and enjoy a range of activities, playing with the outside equipment such as balls and hoops, bikes and cars, a trampoline, sand and water. Games and regular outings to local resources offer further opportunities for the children to improve their physical skills with the childminder's support and encouragement.

The children's individual needs are met and information shared effectively with parents by the childminder maintaining accurate consents and records regarding accidents, incidents and medication.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to move freely and independently around the home and garden because the childminder has taken effective measures to reduce potential hazards. Children are taught the importance of using the toys and play equipment safely through discussion and explanation.

Children are given clear boundaries and the childminder is conscientious about ensuring children are safe on outings. For instance, she supervises them closely, the children wear wrist bands with the childminder's details and she identifies a focal

meeting point for older children.

Children independently select activities from a varied range of good quality resources which the childminder monitors and ensures are suitable for their age and stage of development.

Children's welfare is paramount and they are safe and protected as the childminder is aware of child protection issues and procedures and holds a current first aid certificate.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and confident in the childminder's home. They generally interact warmly and affectionately with the childminder and relate well to each other.

Children take part in a variety of play activities that contribute to their enjoyment and learning such as project work (recently "under the sea") arts and crafts, gardening, sand/water, construction, dough, puzzles, imaginary and role play, board and educational games, reading, stories and singing.

Children are encouraged to talk and express themselves by the childminder who sometimes joins in their play or encourages them to try things for themselves.

Children have regular outings to use local groups and the leisure centre for soft play and also trips further in the school holidays to museums, farms, parks and the sea side.

The organisation of play resources helps the children become increasingly independent as they make choices about their activities and take responsibility for their personal care.

The childminder intends to introduce the Birth to Three matters framework to promote younger children's learning. She will link this to her child development information for parents and produce a sample activity plan.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and their needs are met as the childminder gets to know them well. She works closely with parents to establish information about their routines and personal needs and children experience consistent care.

Children generally behave well and demonstrate increasing independence, for example when they select toys and play materials and use the bathroom on their own. They are encouraged to share, take turns and play together co-operatively. The children show awareness of the house rules and respond to the childminder's

requests and guidance.

Children have access to the full range of activities offered which include resources that promote a positive view of the wider community and increase their understanding of diversity. For example, they acknowledge and celebrate different festivals such as Divali and Eid and sample different food from around the world.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel comfortable, relaxed and at home within a well organised and secure environment. Space and resources are well utilised to support children's needs and this encourages their confidence and independence.

The childminder keeps the required records that contribute to children's health, safety and well being. She has also formulated policies and procedures. These are all shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the care that is provided. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection, the childminder has improved her documentation. She ensures she maintains the daily attendance register with all the required details of arrival and departure times and that accident, incident, medication records are signed by herself and the parents.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- consider the use of the Birth to Three matters framework to promote effective

practice in care and learning for younger children and implement a sample activity plan for parents linked to the existing information on child development.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk