

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	107225
Inspection date	13 August 2007
Inspector	Alison Romanczuk

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 a registered childminder for sixteen years. She lives in a five bedroom town house with garden on an estate in Camberwell. The house is on three floors and the children have the use of the ground floor which includes a dedicated playroom. The childminder lives with her husband and four children. She is registered to care for three children under five years old of whom one may be aged under one year old. The childminder currently has one child under five years on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's good health is generally well maintained and the childminder works well with children's parents in encouraging the children to learn good habits. For example, they learn to wash their hands before eating and after messy play, and bring their toothbrush to use when with the childminder. The childminder provides a generally clean environment but some low level areas and the carpet are of a poor standard. Children are well cared for when they are unwell and the childminder has an up to date first aid certificate. They are well cared for because the

childminder has clear policies in place and understands the need to record and obtain parental consent in this area. The children have adequate times to rest during the day and to gain the benefits of regular fresh air and large physical play as they run in local parks. Children are well nourished when with the childminder who encourages them to try different foods and provides healthy snacks of fruit and vegetables to help balance their meals.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is given priority in a secure and safe environment provided at the childminder's house. The children are able to play with a variety of toys which are well maintained, overall and of a good standard. Children are able to access toys safely and use well maintained child sized furniture in the dedicated playroom. They know the environment and have less accidents as a result. Those accidents which do occur are recorded and used to minimise risks in the future. Areas which may be hazardous such as the upper floors of the childminder's house are securely gated and further underpin the children's wellbeing. Children are protected from fire hazards because the childminder has fire prevention equipment installed and has a thought through fire procedure which she practices regularly. Children are protected from harm because the childminder clearly understands safeguarding procedures and takes her responsibility seriously in this area. Children are clearly supervised and monitored and information shared as appropriate should the need arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy being with the childminder who is very enthusiastic and committed to providing a stimulating and fun environment. They benefit from the strong bond developed with the childminder who gets to know their personalities well and welcomes the children into her family and home. The children are at home in the dedicated playroom and show confidence in moving around the familiar space, for example, pointing out the childminders tropical fish and singing as they use familiar puppets. Interaction between the childminder and children is very good and the younger children are learning to communicate their needs well. They show increasing confidence accessing a variety of resources such as role play and electronic toys and often bring familiar resources, such as their favourite book to share with the childminder. They enjoy an interesting routine with times to visit local playgroups and the park and often join the childminder on shopping trips to Peckham. This helps the children to socialise with other children and provides variety in learning through everyday activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being in an environment which is fully inclusive and the childminder gets to know the children's personalities well. She works well with the children's parents, informing them of policies and procedures and regularly talks to them so that she can get to know children's individual requirements and habits. Because the childminder gives priority to this area the children feel comfortable in the home and are able to make their needs known. The childminder's certificate is displayed and parents are informed about the regulator should they wish to complain. The children benefit from being able to use a range of toys including those which reflect different cultures and ways of life and the childminder ensures each child is treated equally. Children behave well when with the childminder who is consistent and calm when

interacting with the children in her care. As a result they know what is expected of them and are busy and engaged in what they are doing.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is well organised and has many years experience caring for children. She provides a good routine which enables the children to rest, eat, play and visit local playgroups and parks. They benefit from the variety of experiences and from the opportunity to socialise with other children their own age. The children settle well and enjoy being with the childminder who provides a safe and secure home. The childminder is eager to attend training to underpin her service and has attended workshops, for example in healthy eating and literacy support in the early years. Documentation, including policies and procedures are up to date, stored confidentially and securely underpin the childminders aims to ensure the welfare and development of the children in her care. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

During the last inspection the childminder was asked to devise a system to record incidents to underpin her child protection procedures and to make sure that low-level glass panels were safe or inaccessible. An incident book is now in place and low level glass at the house is inaccessible because the childminder no longer uses the upper part of her house for childminding purposes. Children's safety is further enhanced because of these improvements.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted which 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 any 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):

- ensure all areas of the premises are kept to a suitably hygienic standard

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