

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY217092
Inspection date	25 July 2007
Inspector	Rebecca Elizabeth Khabbazi
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 was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and three children aged 12, 10 and seven years old. The family live in a four bedroom house in a residential area of South Croydon. The downstairs of the house is the main area used for childminding. A garden is available for outdoor play. The family have a budgerigar and a fish.

The childminder is registered to care for five children under eight years old, and there are currently five children on roll who attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children begin to learn about simple good hygiene practices when they wash their hands after using the toilet and before they have their snack. They use liquid soap and have their own towel, which helps reduce the risk of cross-infection. They benefit from regular meals and

snacks that meet their nutritional needs, and have frequent drinks to ensure they are well-hydrated. Children enjoy daily physical activity including playing on the swings or bouncing on the trampoline in the garden, and this contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

The childminder keeps appropriate records of children's health needs, any accidents they have and any medicine they need to be given. A first aid box is available and the childminder has completed first aid training in the past. Overall, systems in place promote children's health. However, the childminder has not kept her first aid certificate up to date to ensure she is able to act appropriately in the event of a child having an accident.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, well maintained environment, with facilities to meet their needs. Their risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder takes steps to reduce potential hazards. For instance, she use gates to restrict access to the stairs when young children are present, and makes sure that cleaning materials are kept out of children's reach. Children play with a wide range of toys and play materials that are clean and in good condition. The childminder ensures that toys are age-appropriate and that younger children cannot reach materials with small pieces. This helps children play safely. Fire safety precautions such as a fire blanket and smoke alarms are in place, but the childminder has not yet practised the evacuation plan with minded children to make sure she can act quickly in an emergency.

The childminder has some understanding of child protection issues, which helps safeguard children's welfare. However, she does not have a copy of local safeguarding children guidance to ensure she is familiar with local procedures and knows what to do if she is worried about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and confident in the childminder's home, where they are included as part of the family. They have good relationships with the childminder, who shows an interest in what they say and do and gives praise for their achievements. Children play together happily, spending time building with Lego, playing in the garden and sitting together at the table to draw pictures.

Children take part in a good variety of activities, outings and experiences that support their development and learning. They enjoy daily outings to playgroups, the park or to socialise with friends. At the childminder's home they help themselves to the toys and play materials available or join in with art and craft activities at the kitchen table. The daily routine is organised around the children's needs, with regular times for going out, eating and sleeping, which helps children feel secure.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the setting and valued as individuals, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The childminder finds out about children's needs before they start and makes sure that toys are suitable for their age and stage of development so they can all take part. Children talk about the wider community, look at books and play with toys

that reflect different cultures and beliefs, which helps them learn to value diversity. Children get along well together. The childminder has a calm approach to managing their behaviour. She is clear about boundaries and expectations and encourages children to help each other and learn to work harmoniously with others. Children benefit from positive relationships between the childminder and their parents. They talk every day to exchange information, which helps children experience consistent care. Arrangements for the care of minded children are discussed and confirmed in writing.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder keeps all of the required records that contribute to children's health, safety and wellbeing, although the record of attendance does not contain sufficient detail, as is legally required. She has completed some childminding training, but has not maintained an up to date first aid qualification as required. However, the childminder's home is appropriately organised around the children's needs. There is space for play where children can easily reach toys and play materials and a well planned outdoor play area that includes fixed play equipment. This helps children make the most of the play and learning opportunities provided. Overall, 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 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):

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- obtain and become familiar with guidance on local safeguarding children procedures and details of whom to contact if concerned about a child

- make sure that the daily register contains details of children's actual times of attendance rather than contracted hours, and shows periods when children are not being cared for, such as when they are attending preschool
- improve fire safety precautions by practising the emergency escape plan with minded children

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