

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	107212
Inspection date	28 September 2007
Inspector	Christine Jacqueline Davies

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 was registered in 1982. She lives in a 3 bedroom house, in the London borough of Southwark. The whole of the ground floor of the premises, is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The property is close to local schools, parks and transport services. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently caring for one child under five, on a part time basis. There is a pet dog on the premises.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a well maintained, clean environment. Children's good health is promoted, because the childminder's thorough cleaning routine ensures that children are kept free from infection. In addition to this, children's personal hygiene is encouraged at all times. For example, children wash their hands after participating in messy activities or before handling food. Children benefit from a healthy diet. The childminder works in partnership with parents, to promote children's dietary needs and a good range of healthy meals and snacks are

provided. Thorough procedures regarding the recording of accidents and medication are in place. Furthermore, the childminder has obtained permission from parents to seek emergency medical treatment. Excellent opportunities are in place for children to develop their physical Health. For example, the childminder provides a wide range of outdoor equipment, such as bikes, balls and trampoline, to enable children to main a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of how to keep children safe in her care. She has a secure understanding of her responsibilities regarding child protection issues, but does not currently have up to date child protection guidance in line with local safeguarding procedures. This means that the childminder may not be fully aware of updated procedures should any concerns arise. Children are supervised at all times and the areas used by children, have suitable precautions in place. For example, hazardous materials are placed out of reach to children and a stairgate is in place to prevent unsupervised access to the upper levels of the premises. The childminder pays good attention to fire safety and has ensured that a fitted fire blanket is in place and smoke detectors are in good working order. This contributes to children's safety and well-being. Good systems are in place to ensure that children are kept safe when off the premises. For example, the childminder ensures that young children are securely strapped in the pushchair. Furthermore, the childminder has obtained written permission from parents to take children on outings and has also devised a lost child policy, which contributes to children's overall safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and have built a secure relationship with the childminder. Their confidence and self-esteem is promoted well, because the childminder has ensured that there is a good balance of child centred activities. Children play spontaneously with resources available, and have plenty of scope for free movement, as resources are within easy reach. This encourages children to develop their independence. Children benefit from a flexible, varied routine and enjoy listening to stories, using musical instruments and developing their problem solving skills, by completing puzzles and playing with a range of interactive toys. In addition to this, they happily experiment with a range of creative activities, such as, painting, promoting their self-expression and imagination. Children have many opportunities to socialise with other children through regular attendance at a variety of community groups, developing their confidence and social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has developed strong links with parents, so that children's individual needs are met. For example, the childminder completes an entry profile for children before the placement commences, so that information relating to their care needs are collated. Regular communication with parents, ensures that children's care and development is discussed on a daily basis. In addition to this, the childminder keeps a written notebook of activities and events that children have participated in, which is also available to parents. The childminder has a sensitive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities and is committed to promoting an inclusive environment. Furthermore, there is a good selection of

resources reflecting diversity, helping children to value and appreciate one another. Children are very well behaved, and benefit from positive behaviour strategies, helping them to feel good about themselves and feel secure.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Good systems are in place to ensure that children are well cared for and protected from harm. The premises are very safe and space is organised so that children can participate in both lively and quieter activities. All required documentation is in place and comprehensive policies and procedures contribute to children's overall care and development. However, an up to date child protection guidance, in line with local safeguarding procedures, is not in place. Children's individual needs are met effectively because the childminder provides a flexible routine and works in partnership with parents. The childminder is keen to develop her knowledge of children's care and education, through the attendance of short courses. For example, she is booked to attend a course regarding the Early Years Foundation Stage. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous care inspection recommended that the childminder retain registers, accident and medication records relating to individual children for at least two years. In addition to this, it was recommended that she provides an appropriate range of books, toys and resources, that promote children's learning about diversity and equality of opportunity. Since the last inspection, the childminder has made good improvements. Detailed records are now kept for at least two years and are available for inspection. The childminder has obtained a multicultural pack from her early years department, which contains a broad range of materials reflecting diversity. This helps children develop a positive attitude towards others.

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 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 that up to date child protection guidance, in line with local safeguarding procedures, are obtained

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