

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401729
Inspection date	19 December 2007
Inspector	Christine Lynne Hodge

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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1999. She lives with her husband and two children aged 11 and 15 years in a three bedroomed house in Greenwich. The whole of the property is used for childminding purposes apart from her daughter's bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under eight years at any one time. She is currently caring for two children under five years, both on a part time basis.

The childminder is member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health and welfare is not sufficiently promoted as the childminder does not keep required records of medication she administers to children and does not have children's medical and dietary records.

Children are cared for in clean, well maintained surroundings. The childminder has effective procedures in place to safeguard children from cross infection. For example, surfaces in the home and wooden floors are cleaned regularly with anti bacterial cleaning materials. Children who unwell with sickness, diarrhoea or infectious diseases are required to stay at home and appropriate hand washing takes place after each nappy change. Although the childminder has updated her first aid training, she does not have written consent from parents to seek emergency medical treatment, preventing her from acting promptly in an emergency.

Children benefit from regular fresh air and exercise walking to local parks and groups. In the better weather they also have access to outdoor play in the garden. Parents supply children's food and drinks, although the childminder does provide fruit for snacks in between meals.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are not well protected as the childminder has insufficient knowledge of child abuse and child protection issues. She has not attended any training on child protection since becoming registered and is not familiar with current Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures in order to safeguard children.

The childminder's home is warm and welcoming with necessary precautions in place to keep children safe. These include socket covers, safety gates, smoke detectors and a fire blanket. Although children have access to the whole of the ground floor and can move confidently around the setting, the lounge is the main area used by the children for play. Furniture, equipment and play resources are in good condition and meet the needs of the children. The childminder does not use her car for childminding purpose and has effective procedures in place to keep children safe on outings.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settled and enjoy a close relationship with the childminder. Although the childminder has no knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework she provides children with a suitable range of indoor and outdoor activities to promote their development. Indoors, children can choose what they want to play with from an appropriate selection of resources which are accessible and regularly rotated to stop them from getting bored. These include books, puzzles, shape sorters, dolls, small world figures, construction and push along toys. They take part in organised activities, such as, painting and play dough and during the week children benefit from outings to toddlers groups and parks, walks by the river and visits to other childminders. After school, older children enjoy watching television, playing board games as well as various art and craft activities. At the inspection children interact well with the childminder who sits on the floor, helping them with puzzles and to take turns to post different shapes in the post box. The childminder continually talks to children to encourage their language skills whilst giving gently reminders about the need to share. Later children enjoy sitting on the childminder's lap for a cuddle and to listen to a story.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder does not have a required complaints procedures in place or provide parents with details about Ofsted. She does not ask parents to complete child record forms or written consent forms so, therefore, she is not maintaining required relevant details to assist her in the care of children.

Children from all cultures and religions are welcomed into the childminder's home. Although she operates an effective, gradual settling in procedure and talks to parents to find out information about children's individual needs, the information is not recorded. Children have access to positive image resources, such as, books, dolls and small world figures to help them learn about diversity and disability. The childminder has a positive attitude to caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities and to working with parents and other professionals. She has effective systems in place for sharing information with parents.

Strategies for managing behaviour are very much focused on positive reinforcement with children receiving lots of praise and encouragement to promote their self esteem. The childminder reinforces the importance of sharing and playing nicely together.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She has been registered since 1999 and has not attended registration training or any other training courses except to update her first aid qualification. She has, therefore, not been proactive in updating her knowledge and understanding of some areas of childminding practice including child protection to ensure children are well safeguarded, the Birth to three matters framework and documentation. As a result the childminder is not maintaining required records so is in breach of her registration. For example, the record of children's attendance is purely a financial record and does not include any required details about the times children arrive and depart. The childminder also does not have any required records of medication she has previously administered to children or child record forms containing necessary information needed to care for children. Although the childminder completes written contracts with parents, she does not have consent forms allowing her to seek emergency medical treatment. However, the childminder's home and play resources are organised effectively so that children are kept safe and make choices about their play.

Improvements since the last inspection

At her previous inspection the childminder was asked to provide children with a range of activities that promote their creativity. During the week indoors, children are provided with activities, such as, painting, play dough and role play and are taken to toddler groups where they can also access activities to promote their creativity.

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 complaint 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures (LSCB)
- keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children
- ensure that all necessary documentation relating to childminding is appropriately maintained and is available for inspection at all times
- keep a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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