

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY240746
Inspection date	16 August 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 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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged 10 years and one year old. The family live in a three bedroom ground floor flat in a residential area of Balham. All of the flat is used for childminding. A garden is available for outdoor play. The family have a cat.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years old, and there are currently four children on roll. The childminder also cares for children aged over eight years old.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and a local specialist childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about simple good hygiene practices when they wash their hands before they eat, using the liquid soap and disposable towels provided. The childminder takes precautions such as washing her own hands and using a mat when she changes children's nappies, which reduces the risk of cross-contamination. Children benefit from regular, varied meals and snacks that meet their nutritional needs, enjoying a snack of fruit and toast during the morning. They have plenty of drinks to keep them well-hydrated. They enjoy frequent outings to the local park, where they benefit from fresh air and exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle, and they also have fun playing in the front courtyard at the childminder's home. Children's health is protected because the childminder has clear systems in place to keep records about any accidents they have and any medicine they need to be given. They are taken good care of if they have an accident or become unwell as the childminder has an up to date first aid certificate and can respond appropriately to minor injuries.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming family home which is suitably maintained and has facilities to meet their needs. The environment is child-centred, with lots of posters and examples of children's work on the walls, and a good variety of toys and resources are easily accessible for children to select from. The childminder checks play materials on a daily basis to ensure they are clean and safe for use, which helps children play safely. Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder takes effective steps to identify and reduce any potential hazards, including completing a written risk assessment of the outdoor areas. She ensures that access to the kitchen area and hallway is restricted and that children are closely supervised at all times. Fire safety precautions such as smoke alarms, a fire blanket and a written fire procedure help protect children from the risk of being exposed to harm from a fire. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibility towards the children in her care. She has a written child protection policy and local contact details and is aware of what to do if she has concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and content in the childminder's home. They happily help themselves to toys and show excitement when they have a turn with the play dough or take the doll's buggy into the garden to play. The childminder responds to them with warmth and affection, attending to their needs, ensuring they are comfortable and well occupied, and giving cuddles when they are upset. She spends time talking and playing with the children and shows an interest in what they say and do.

Children take part in a good range of activities and experiences that support their development and learning. There is a familiar daily routine with regular times for going out, eating and sleeping, which helps children feel secure. Children enjoy daily outings, to socialise with other children at a variety of playgroups, to practise their physical skills at the nearby playground, or to listen to stories at the local library. At the childminder's home they take part in activities

from the well-stocked art and craft cupboard, play games, dress up and enjoy stories and role play.

The childminder has an understanding of the Birth to three matters framework and has completed some initial training, but is not yet using the framework to plan specific activities for children or to monitor and assess their development and progress.

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. Information about children's needs, likes and dislikes and their usual daily routine is gathered before they start to help them settle in quickly. The childminder plans activities that all children can take part in at their own level according to their age and needs, which ensures everyone is included. Children learn to value diversity when they play with a range of resources that reflect positive images of the wider community, or find out about different festivals or celebrations. The childminder takes a positive approach to managing children's behaviour, ensuring that she takes into account their individual circumstances and needs, which helps children behave well. Children benefit from good relationships between the childminder and their parents. They talk every day to exchange information, which helps children experience consistent care. There are also additional written policies available that provide further useful details about the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has completed relevant childminding training and makes good use of other local courses and training opportunities to further develop her knowledge and skills. She keeps all of the required documentation that contributes to the health, safety and wellbeing of minded children, and records are readily available for inspection. The home is well-organised around the children's needs, with inviting play areas and easy access to toys and play materials. The childminder plans her day around the routines of the children and ensures they are stimulated and occupied. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to update her documentation to ensure that accident records are sufficiently detailed and appropriately signed by parents, and that written consent is obtained from parents before any medication is administered. Systems are now in place to ensure that accident records contain all of the necessary detail and are signed by parents on the day they occurred. Suitable medication consent forms are also in place. These measures ensure that parents are kept well informed and that their wishes are followed appropriately.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received one complaint about the provision. Concerns were raised that a child's needs were not being met and that parental confidentiality had been breached. These concerns related to National Standard 3 - Care, learning and play and National Standard 12 - Working in partnership with parents and carers. Ofsted investigated these concerns by making an unannounced visit. As a result of the visit actions were set for the childminder

to ensure that the record of attendance is to be completed on a daily basis, and to ensure that the confidentiality of children's and parent's details are maintained, at all times. The childminder responded to these actions and Ofsted was satisfied that appropriate steps had been taken to meet the required Standard. No further action was taken and the childminder remains suitable for registration.

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):

- develop the use of the Birth to three matters framework to plan activities and provide information for parents about children's development and progress

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