

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122947
Inspection date	03 October 2007
Inspector	Teresa Elkington
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 1996. She lives with her husband and two children aged 11 and eight years in Streatham, London. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five, all of whom attend on a part time basis. She attends the local parent/toddler group. The family have two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to develop an appropriate awareness of being healthy, for example, wet wipes are used to clean hands before snacks and meals. However, individual hand towels are not used and hand washing does not form part of the child's daily routines after nappy changes. Adequate levels of cleanliness are maintained in the home, although toys which children use are not sufficiently cleaned to ensure that they are hygienic and ready for use. Appropriate

arrangements are in place to protect children from any risks associated with pets. Children's individual health needs are catered for, however, the lack of detail recording when administering medication to children does not ensure that their health needs are fully safeguarded. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate in place, however, there is no first aid box available to ensure that accidents can be dealt with efficiently.

Children benefit from the provision of healthy snacks, freshly prepared meals and regular drinks, which takes into account parental preferences and individual dietary requirements. Children have opportunities to rest and relax according to their needs. Children are developing a healthy life style and have many opportunities to enjoy fresh air and physical activity. Regular outings and activities within the home and garden, allow children to gain physical skills and gain control of their bodies. For example, they enjoy visits to the park and venturing out into the garden to explore and play with the resources available to them.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment. Space is well utilised to ensure that children can move around freely and safely both inside the home and in the garden. They have access to a suitable range of age appropriate toys and resources. However, the poor maintenance of these, prevents children from accessing play materials that are clean and safe to use. All safety precautions are in place within the home to ensure the well being of the children. For example, locks placed on sheds, catches on drawers and cupboards in the kitchen. Suitable measures have been taken to ensure that children are well protected in the event of a fire. The childminder is vigilant about the children's safety on outings. For example, they are appropriately restrained when travelling in a car and younger children who are walking wear reins, this ensures that they are fully protected at all times.

Children are well protected as the childminder has a sound understanding of her role in safeguarding children, which helps towards supporting their welfare in the home.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and relaxed in the childminder's care. They settle quickly, responding to the childminder's interaction which is warm, welcoming and enables children to feel secure and comfortable. Children benefit from the continued involvement of the childminder in their daily routines and their play, ensuring that their interests and learning are continually being extended. The childminder reads stories to them, asking what they can see in the pictures which holds their attention and helps to develop their early language skills. Children are able to select toys for themselves and enjoy exploring the garden independently. The childminder ensures the very young children have a variety of things to play, enabling them to enjoy and develop through their play.

Children benefit from a range of stimulating activities both inside and outside of the home. For example, children enjoy visits to parks which allows them opportunities to develop their physical skills. Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as art and craft and weekly attendance at singing sessions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated and well cared for as individuals. Their needs are met and they are cared for appropriately in the welcoming home environment, which helps them to feel settled and well supported. The childminder helps children to learn and become aware of the world around them. For example, through discussion, activities, play resources and the displaying of posters in the area where children play.

Children have realistic behaviour boundaries, which helps them to learn, care and show consideration for each other to enable them to play harmoniously. The childminder offers lots of praise and encouragement for positive behaviour. This promotes children's confidence and self-esteem. Relationships with parents are friendly and supportive. There are systems in place for the childminder and parents to share information about children's individual needs. The childminder gathers all relevant information before children are placed in her care. This helps to ensure that children 's individual needs are fully met.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder adopts a flexible approach and organises her day effectively to ensure that the care needs of children are fully met. However, the poor maintenance of play resources does not ensure that resources are safe and clean for children to use. Children are protected from unvetted persons as the childminder supervises them at all times. The childminder has acquired her certificate in first aid in support of her work with young children; although she understands that she needs to access further training courses to extend her knowledge and expertise in caring for young children. All the legally required documentation and records are in place, however, the administration of medication record lacks detail and the daily attendance register is not kept fully in line with requirements to ensure that children's welfare is promoted.

The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection several recommendations and two actions were raised; ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice; obtain written permission to administer medication, and keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children; ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible on the premises and available for inspection at all times and update knowledge of first aid, by attending a course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children.

The childminder has taken positive action to all issues raised with her. All records relating to childminding are readily available, which include signed permission from parents to enable the childminder to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and to administer medication. A record of medicines administered is now in place although further detail is required to ensure children's health needs are fully met. The childminder has obtained a first aid certificate in support of her work with young children. She helps children to learn and become aware of the world around them. For example, through discussion, activities, play resources and the displaying of posters in the area which children play, which promotes equality of opportunity and

anti-discriminatory practice for all who attend. A smoke detector is now in place in the hallway of the first floor, which ensures that suitable measures are in place in the event of a fire.

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):

- maintain register in line with requirements
- ensure a first aid box is available and that detailed records are kept of medication administered.
- ensure all toys are well maintained in a safe and clean condition
- improve routines for hand hygiene

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