

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	137997
Inspection date	27 September 2007
Inspector	Angela Ramsey
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 has been registered since February 1993. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in a four bed roomed house in Tooting.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children aged under eight years at any one time and is currently caring for four children. Three are aged five years and under and one is aged over eight years.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, well organised and comfortable home. Children learn about the importance of good hygiene practises through their daily routine. The childminder reminds children to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and after playing in the garden and park as this reduces the risk of spreading germs. The childminder maintains a good standard of cleanliness in her home. When changing nappies she ensures soiled nappies are wrapped and disposed of appropriately. The childminder then washes her hands to reduce the risk of cross infection.

Children take part in a range of activities that contribute to their good health and physical development such as playing in the local park, where they enjoy playing on the slide and swings. Children's physical care needs are well catered for and the childminder ensures children's individual needs are met.

Parents provide their children's meals. These are stored in the fridge and heated through prior to being served.

Healthy snacks such as fruit are provided by the childminder. Children are also provided with regular drinks of water to prevent them from becoming dehydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe environment which is welcoming where risks are identified and minimised. The childminder ensures the children's safety by providing a safety gate, fire blanket, smoke alarms, electrical safety socket covers, cooker guard and she has an up to date first aid certificate. She has also thought through her emergency evacuation procedure, which is practised with the children to ensure that the procedures are familiar to them should an emergency arise.

The children play with a suitable range of equipment and toys that are clean, safe independently accessible and age appropriate.

The childminder has adequate knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures and understands her responsibility in reporting information should she become concerned about a child in her care. However a method for recording this information is not in place.

Parental consent forms for outings are in place, however these have not been signed by parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder gets to know the children well through regular talks with their parents and as a result the children feel welcome and comfortable in the childminder's home. Children are able to experience a suitable range of activities both inside and outside of the home, which contributes to their overall development.

Whilst in the childminders home children are able to play with cars, talk on toy telephones, complete puzzles and press the buttons on the activity centres and watch as it lights up and hear different sounds. The childminder also takes the children to childminding groups. At these groups children are able to engage in creative activities such as sand and water play. They also meet new children and increase their social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder values and treats in accordance with their individual needs. She praises children's achievements and encourages them which helps to build their self esteem. Children are also encouraged to share and take turns when playing.

Children learn about the wider community through the range of books the childminder has available, these books have colourful illustrations, which depict children of different cultures enabling children to develop an awareness of diversity.

Positive behaviour is praised, unacceptable behaviour is dealt with appropriately according to the child's age and stage of development.

The childminder has developed positive relationships with parents. She gets to know the children well through communication with their parents and as a result the children feel welcomed and comfortable in the childminder's home. Although the childminder is aware of her duty to investigate and to keep a log of complaints, parents are not provided with the name and address of Ofsted should any concerns arise.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is generally well organised and children are cared for in an environment in which they feel at home and at ease, which helps them to gain confidence and independence.

The childminder works within her conditions of registration and understands the need to keep records. She keeps well documented and up-to-date records of children's individual details, attendance and valid public liability insurance. However she has not obtained parental consent to seek emergency treatment or advice. This means parents wishes are not known.

The childminder has successfully completed a first aid course which includes training and first aid for infants and young children. Nevertheless a method for recording any accidents that may occur is not in place. Although contract forms contain a section for parents to sign giving their consent for the childminder to take their children on outings. These have not been signed by parents. A criminal records bureau form needs to be completed for a member of the childminders household.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection required that the childminder; ensure the shed in the garden is made safe; ensure a method is devised to record medication that is administered; ensure a procedure is in place to prevent the children gaining access to the kitchen area when meals are being prepared;

ensure all household members complete police checks; ensure you obtain a copy of Merton Councils Area Child Protection Committee procedures; ensure a medication consent form is devised and signed by parents.

The childminder has made the shed inaccessible to children, a stair gate is in place to prevent children gaining access to the kitchen. The implementation of these reduces the risks of accidents. The childminder has obtained a copy of her local councils child protection procedures, which ensures she is aware of the procedures. A medication record book and consent forms are in place. This means parents are kept informed of the doses that are administered. Criminal record bureau checks are still outstanding for members of the childminder's household.

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):

- ensure a method for recording incidents is in place
- ensure parents sign consent forms for outings also ensure parents are provided with the contact details of Ofsted
- obtain parental consent to seek emergency treatment or advice and ensure a method for recording accidents is in place
- ensure all members of the household complete criminal record bureau forms

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