

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124827
Inspection date	08 November 2007
Inspector	Joanne Lindsey Caswell

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 1993. She lives with her husband and children in a residential area of South Croydon, within walking distance of local shops, schools and parks. The whole ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time. She is currently caring for one child who attends on a full time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

There are good procedures in place to support children's healthy development. The childminder maintains a clean and well-maintained home and effective precautions are taken to prevent the spread of infection. For example, children learn the importance of washing hands thoroughly after toileting and before eating and all children have their own bedding and towels. The changing mat is cleaned with anti-bacterial spray after use and nappies are disposed of

hygienically. Parents are made aware of the childminder's sick child policy, ensuring that any child who is suffering from infection is excluded. This helps to guard against the spread of illness.

Children have regular opportunities to play outside and use resources which enhance their physical development. For example, mobile babies enjoy using resources for pushing/pulling, helping to develop their balance and co-ordination. There are many garden toys available, such as a trampoline and wheeled toys, encouraging children's healthy development and spatial development. However, at present, the garden is not fully secure and parents' consent has not been obtained for children to use the trampoline.

Clear documentation is in place to support children's health and welfare needs. The childminder is aware of the importance of obtaining parents' consent before administering any medication and documentation is available for the recording of accidents and incidents. This ensures that parents and carers are made aware of all appropriate incidents.

Children's dietary needs are met appropriately. The childminder is conscientious in working closely with parents to meet children's dietary needs. She ensures all meals and foods provided meet children's cultural needs and offers children healthy, nutritious meals. Drinks are freely available ensuring children have sufficient drinks to keep them hydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally well-protected against hazards as the childminder takes mainly appropriate precautions. The front door is kept secure and children do not have access to the stairs, preventing hazards. Most cupboards containing hazardous items, such as medication and cleaning materials, have been made inaccessible. However, some other cupboards in the hallway and on the first floor landing have not been made safe for children. At present, the garden is not fully secure due to damaged fencing. This restricts children from playing safely in the garden.

The childminder has appropriate equipment in place to support the care and developmental needs of young children. She ensures that all resources are purchased from reputable suppliers and checks all toys and equipment regularly to ensure it remains safe for children's use. Children access their toys easily and have ample room to play safely.

Children's safety and security is promoted appropriately as the childminder ensures that only known adults collect children from her care. This ensures that unauthorised adults do not have access to children. During outings, children learn the importance of road safety and 'Stranger/Danger'. The childminder supervises children closely at all times and helps them to become aware of hazards.

The childminder has a clear understanding of her role in safeguarding children and protecting them from harm. She has completed appropriate training and ensures that her knowledge of local procedures is kept up-to-date. This ensures the childminder can implement appropriate policies if she ever has any concerns about a child in her care. As a result, children's welfare is promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They enjoy warm, loving relationships and benefit from cuddles and physical affection. The childminder is aware of children's developmental needs and recognises which activities and toys children particularly enjoy using. However, at present, she is not implementing any form of assessment framework, such as Birth to three matters, in order to monitor children's individual progress.

Children enjoy a busy, varied and interesting day with the childminder. They develop their language and communication skills through conversation and by looking at books. There are resources available to encourage children to develop their imagination. For example, children play with role play toys, such as dolls, enabling them to recreate familiar scenarios. Children develop an interest in colours and sounds as they play with a range of toys which light up and play music.

There are relevant procedures in place to enable children to socialise with other children as the childminding routine includes visits to toddler groups.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated equally and fairly as the childminder is committed to regarding all children as individuals. She is very aware of the importance of respecting children's needs and rights and encourages all children to learn about the cultural needs of others. The childminder obtains all relevant information from parents ensuring that she fully understands each child's personal needs and promotes an inclusive, non-discriminatory environment.

Children develop an awareness of acceptable behaviour levels as the childminder gives clear explanations and promotes consistent strategies. She discusses behaviour management strategies with parents and ensures that children clearly recognise acceptable boundaries.

Most documentation is in place to support children's care needs, although written consent is not yet in place for children to use the trampoline. There is a complaints procedure in place with contact details for Ofsted. However, a written record of previous complaints is not yet maintained and this is a breach in regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has a basic understanding of the National Standards and recognises her responsibilities as a childminder. She ensures that appropriate vetting procedures are in place to protect children and is proactive in attending relevant training to keep her knowledge and skills up-to-date.

The childminding routine is organised appropriately to ensure that conditions of registration are adhered to and children benefit from a stimulating and varied day.

Most regulatory documentation is in place to support the care needs of children and the requirements of the National Standards. However, the attendance record does not always include children's times of arrival and departure and the complaints procedure lacks detail.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, two recommendations were raised. These related to first aid training and documentation relating to behaviour management. The provider has met these issues by completing an approved training course in first aid and by developing information and documentation which generally supports the care provision, including behaviour management.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, one complaint has been received by Ofsted which required the provider to take action in order to meet the National Standards.

A complaint was received in February 2006, relating to National Standard 1 - Suitable Person and National Standard 11 - Behaviour; regarding inappropriate behaviour management techniques used by persons living on the registered premises. Ofsted visited the provider to discuss the concerns raised, and from the subsequent investigation two actions were set. The provider responded to the actions and continues to remain qualified 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:

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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 the attendance record includes accurate information regarding children's attendance times
- develop the complaints procedure to ensure a log is maintained of previous complaints
- improve safety provision within the home to ensure the garden is fully secure and cupboards containing hazardous materials are kept securely locked
- ensure parents' consent is obtained for children to use the trampoline
- develop the play and learning opportunities for children by increasing knowledge and awareness of the Birth to three matters framework

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