

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	102021
Inspection date	08 February 2008
Inspector	Audrey Opal Ufot

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 January 1996. She lives with her husband in Swiss Cottage in the London borough of Camden. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under eight at any one time and is currently minding one child full-time. The childminder takes children on regular outings to a wide range of outdoor activities groups and visits to the local library, farm, zoo and parks.

The family have dogs as pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming home environment as the childminder sustains a satisfactory level of cleanliness throughout her home. Children's health and welfare is well

promoted as young children learn good hygiene practices. The childminder wipes their hands and her hands after nappy changing times; and children's faces and noses are wiped when required. Older children learn to wash their hands before meal times and after visits to the toilet.

Children are safeguarded by the childminder's sound knowledge regarding first aid. For example, she is trained in first aid and the first aid box is suitably stocked and is easily accessible. Children do not attend if they have an infection or feel unwell. As a result they are protected from illness. There are suitable systems in place for the recording of accidents, incidents and injuries. However, there is no method in place to record medication.

Children enjoy regular fresh air and exercise as the childminder goes on daily walks with the children. She takes them to play groups where young children have opportunities to participate with their peers and play in a baby gym soft area. Children have further opportunities to go on visits the local library, drop-ins and parks and trips to places of interest such as the zoo and farm. Children can access other outdoor areas such as a garden where they take part in a range of physical activities. These contribute to children's good health and improve their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Young children are encouraged to investigate their surroundings as the childminder displays enticing toys and resources on the floor. The childminder made her home welcoming for children and there is sufficient space for them to crawl, move around and feel content.

Children feel safe and secure in the environment because the childminder takes steps to minimise possible risk in her home. For example, a fire blanket is installed in the kitchen and smoke alarms are checked regularly. There is in place, a fire evacuation procedure which is displayed and parents' have given their written consent for children to go on outings.

Children's individual needs are met well; because the childminder has good range and well maintained toys, furniture's and equipments. These are ages and stages appropriate which children can safely access. The childminder knows to contact Social Services and Ofsted if she is concerned about a child's welfare; she is also aware of the importance to record any concerns and incidents. However, the childminder's knowledge is limited with regards to the new guidance relating to safeguarding children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have established a close loving relationship with the childminder; children are responsive to the childminder's gentle care, hugs and cuddles as she hushes them to sleep in her arms.

The childminder provides young children with flexible routines which allow them to pursue their interest. For example, the childminder set out the play area so that children can play in colourful ring activity set as they independently choose from a good range of practical comforting toys and play materials such as teething rings and touch and feel sensory musical activity toys.

Children are learning that their voice and actions have effects on others as they strive to share meanings. For example, children get excited as they listen to the childminder sing nursery

rhythm songs such as 'One Two Three Four Five once I caught a fish alive'; children respond with a babbling sounds 'yaya' expressing their enjoyment. They also are finding their voices as at other times the childminder talks to them and sing 'Old McDonald has a farm'; children respond with enthusiasm and lots of giggles.

The childminder provides children with a good range of fun, colourful and stimulating toys and play materials; such as interactive animal lift out 'Little Tiger' books. This promotes children's individual interest and abilities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for appropriately by the childminder. She reports that she has developed good relationships with parents. This is evident as written comments from parents have highlighted this. The childminder works in partnership with parents to meet the individual needs of the children appropriately. Daily feedback is exchanged between the childminder and parents to ensure they are aware of the provision and the activities that their children have participated in.

There are limited resources that reflect images of differing cultures and disability. However, there are several books and dolls offering positive images. The children are valued and respected as individuals and they have equal access to toys and activities. Children with learning difficulties and/or disability are welcome in the childminder's home as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare.

Children behave well, the childminder uses age appropriate strategies to manage children's behaviour. For example, she distracts children to another activity and gives age appropriate explanations about right and wrong. Children are developing self-esteem because the childminder gives plenty of praise and encouragement.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming home environment. The childminder organises her day so she is able to give the children appropriate support, encouragement and attention. Children benefit from secure daily routines and take an active part in play and learning activities. Children have opportunities to choose from a wide range of toys and play resources, which are appropriate for their ages and stages of development.

Most of the regulatory paperwork is maintained and contributes to children's safety and well-being. Overall, children's health is promoted, although not all documentation is in place to record medication. Children are happily settled in the comfortable environment. The childminder is warm and friendly with the children. Children's overall care, learning and welfare are enhanced by the information shared between parents and the childminder.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous inspection one action and one recommendation were made. The action has been addressed; however, the recommendation has not been completed.

The childminder has completed a course of first aid training for infants and young children. This has equipped the childminder to apply emergency first aid to infants and young children. She was also required to access appropriate training to update her knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. The childminder is now aware of the importance to record any incidents if she was concerned about a child's welfare. However, her knowledge is limited with regards to the new guidance relating to safeguarding children, therefore, a further recommendation has been made.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required Ofsted or the provider to take action.

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):

- develop further knowledge and understanding of child protection issues which include the new guidance relating safeguarding children
- increase the range of toys resources to positively reflect different cultures and disability
- devise a method to record medication.

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