

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	107232
Inspection date	15 November 2007
Inspector	Christine Jacqueline Davies
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 1992. She lives with her adult son, in a three bedroom house, in the London borough of Southwark. The whole of the ground floor of the premises, is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The property is close to local schools, parks and transport services. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time, and is currently minding five children under five years. There were no children present at the time of inspection. The family have one cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates that appropriate procedures are in place to minimise the risk of cross infection. For example, she describes how children would be encouraged to take responsibility for their own personal hygiene, such as washing hands after playing outside or before handling food. In addition to this, the premises and equipment used by children, would be cleaned on a regular basis. The childminder has maintained a current first aid certificate and has appropriate systems in place to record accidents and medication,

administered to children. However, she has not obtained permission to seek emergency medical treatment or to administer medication, from parents of all minded children.

The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of healthy eating. Current records regarding minded children, do not contain information relating to their health and dietary needs. However, the childminder explained that she discusses with parents the dietary needs of children and the importance of providing healthy, balanced meals and snacks. The childminder further explained how she would promote children's physical health. For example, she talks about children having regular exercise via the garden and park, where they can use a range of large and small outdoor equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates that she has some awareness of how to keep children safe, while on the premises. However, she has not ensured that a fitted fire blanket is in place or that alcohol or matches, are placed out of reach to children. The childminder generally takes suitable precautions to keep children safe, when collecting them from nursery or going on local outings. For example, she explains that children are encouraged to hold hands when crossing the road. However, she has not obtained written consent from parents to take children on local outings. The childminder demonstrates an awareness of how to safeguard children's welfare and is aware that concerns should be recorded. However, she does not have access to current safeguarding procedures. The childminder described the importance of using toys and equipment that meets safety standards and explained that she would check equipment on a regular basis for damage or disrepair.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates that she has a clear understanding of young children's development. She explained that she would provide a flexible routine, which would incorporate, a range of indoor and outdoor activities. For example, she describes how children would take part in activities that encourage imaginative play, and also develop their interest in, constructional activities, puzzles, books and gardening. In addition to this, children would have regular opportunities to visit local community groups, where they can socialise with other children. Furthermore, the childminder explains that, toys and resources, would be stored within easy access to children, in order to promote independence and choice. Through discussion, the childminder demonstrated that she would give children plenty of individual attention, so that she can support their all round development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrated via discussion, that she has a clear understanding of how to promote children's well-being. For example, she described the importance of working in partnership with parents, so that children are settled and their individual needs are catered for. She further explained that, parents would be kept informed of their child's progress on a regular basis. Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates an awareness of how to promote children's awareness of diversity. For example, she explains that children would have access to

resources that reflect positive images of society. She also added that children in her care, would be treated with equal concern.

The childminder demonstrates a commitment to providing an inclusive environment for all children in her care. She has a sensitive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities, and is willing to liaise with parents and other agencies, to meet children's needs. The childminder demonstrates that she has a sound understanding of how to manage children's behaviour. She explains that children would be aware of their boundaries and would always be given an explanation, as to why behaviour may be unacceptable.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates that she has most required records for childminding in place, however, the childminder has not sought permission from all parents, to seek emergency medical treatment, to go on local outings or to administer medication. In addition to this, the childminder does not have current child protection guidance. The premises are safe, but the childminder has not taken suitable action to ensure that matches and alcohol are placed out of reach to children, or that a fitted fire blanket is in place. The childminder demonstrates that children would benefit from a range of activities and resources, so that their interest and enjoyment is maintained. The childminder is keen to keep up to date with changes in childcare and education, and attends relevant courses to enhance her knowledge and understanding. Overall, evidence suggests that the provision would meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous care inspection, recommended that the childminder ensure that parents sign the record of accidents to children, and that the record of children's attendance is kept up to date. In addition to this, it was also recommended that the childminder, gain further knowledge and understanding of Area Child Protection Committee guidelines and review behaviour management strategies, used with young children. Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved her recordkeeping and now ensures that an accurate record of attendance is maintained at all times. All entries to the accident book are now signed by parents. Through discussion, the childminder described appropriate methods used to manage children's behaviour. However, the childminder does not have up to date child protection guidance, in line with local safeguarding procedures.

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):

- obtain up to date child protection guidance, in line with local safeguarding procedures
- ensure that matches and alcohol are placed out of reach to children
- ensure that permission to administer medication and to seek emergency medical treatment, is sought from all parents
- obtain consent from parents to take children on local outings and ensure that a fitted fire blanket is in place

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