

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122795
Inspection date	18 February 2008
Inspector	Helen Deegan
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 became registered in 1989. She lives with her family in Tooting, in the London Borough of Wandsworth. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor including the fully enclosed back garden. The family have two cats, a rabbit and two dogs.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and there are three children currently on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a clean environment. She encourages children to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet so that they develop good personal hygiene practices. She provides paper towels for hand drying so that children are protected from cross infection. She asks parents to keep children who are ill or infectious away from the setting which helps to ensure that the spread of infection is prevented. The childminder does not have a valid first aid certificate and this compromises children's safety.

The childminder provides healthy and nutritious meals for children and obtains information about their dietary requirements from their parents so that their individual needs are met and their health is promoted. Children are offered drinks during the day but cannot always access drinks independently. Regular opportunities for children to enjoy physical play are provided via toddler groups and outdoor play in the childminder's garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has taken steps to ensure safety in most areas of the premises, however various cleaning solutions are accessible to children in a low level unlocked kitchen cupboard. This presents a potential safety hazard for children.

The childminder offers a warm environment with sufficient space for children to play purposefully and furniture for them to rest and relax comfortably. She has an adequate range of toys, some of which are stored at low level so that children can access them independently. However, storage of the toys is poorly organised which makes it difficult for children to self select particular chosen activities.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of the indicators of abuse and the procedures that she should follow should a concern about a child arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder joins in with the children at their activities, getting down to their level and talking to them about what they doing. She asks simple questions and provides help as needed which encourages the children to gain the most from the activities. She praises their efforts and achievements which helps them gain confidence, however she sometimes speaks negatively about the children in front of them which could be potentially damaging to their self esteem. On the day of the inspection a child particularly enjoyed painting, first painting pasta then painting freely on plain paper. The child became engrossed and told the childminder that the wavy painted line was a snake, the childminder asked what sound a snake makes and child continued painting whilst making hissing snake sounds. The childminder offers a satisfactory range of activities so that the children are suitably stimulated and well occupied.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has produced an appropriate equal opportunities policy. She promotes it via positive reflection of different race and ability within some of her resources and by celebrating different religious festivals with the children. On the day of the inspection for example, sticky pictures of Dragons which the children had made for Chinese New Year were displayed on the fridge.

The childminder obtains information about children's individual needs from their parent's. She discusses any special needs they may have to ensure that she can meet their needs appropriately. She has some experience of caring for a child with special needs. She liaised closely with the parents and conducted her own research on the child's condition to develop her knowledge and understand how best to care for the child. The parent's shared information from medical

professional's with the childminder which she used provide appropriate support to help the child develop to the best of their ability.

The childminder manages behaviour using age appropriate strategies such as explanation and distraction. She has produced an written behaviour management policy which describes positive methods for managing unwanted behaviour.

Parent's receive good information from the childminder about her policies and practice. They receive verbal feedback about their children daily and have occasional review meetings so that they are well informed. The childminder displays her certificate of registration for parent's to see.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has most of the required record keeping systems in place. However, the daily record of children's attendance does not provide sufficient detail. She includes information on her contracts about how parent's may make a complaint. This ensures that parents always have this information available should they need it. She has not maintained a current first aid certificate, therefore children's safety is compromised. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve safety in the premises with regard to making hazards inaccessible to children and ensuring that electrical sockets and the bathroom lock are made safe. She was also asked to ensure that the daily record of attendance is maintained up to date, including children's full names and hours of attendance, and to provide resources which promote learning about diversity.

The childminder has now provided socket cover's and made the bathroom lock safe by providing a door wedge. She has also developed her range of resources which provide positive reflection of the diversity within today's society. She has not made hazardous solutions in a low level kitchen cupboard safe and the daily attendance register still contains insufficient detail, therefore these recommendations have been raised again at this inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required either 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):

- develop the way that toys are stored so that children can easily see what is available and access activities of their choice
- ensure that an appropriate first aid course is completed at the earliest opportunity
- ensure that the daily attendance record is maintained up to date including children's names and hours of attendance.

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