

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 122834 |
| Inspection date | 29 October 2007 |
| Inspector | Janet Sharon Williams |
| 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 1989. She lives with her husband in Tooting in the London Borough of Wandsworth. There are shops, parks and toddler groups within a few minutes walk. The ground floor rooms are used for childminding. There is a bathroom and toilet on the ground floor. The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding four children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The family have a dog.

The childminder regularly attends a local toddler group and also takes the children to other local places of interest. She is a member of the Wandsworth childminders Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean home where good hygiene practices are used by everyone at all times to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. Their hands are washed before and after

meals. Effective procedures are in place for recording accidents and medication administered. The childminder also has clear written policies for if a child becomes unwell while in her care and permission has been obtained for emergency medical treatment. Although, the childminder's first aid certificate has expired, she has a well stocked first aid box to carry out appropriate first aid in event of an accident.

Parents provide meals and the childminder supplies healthy nutritious snacks, such as varied fruit and sandwiches made with wholemeal bread. Drinks are offered at regular intervals and considerations are given for younger children, where their drinking beakers are frequently filled with fresh water.

The children enjoy a range of physical outdoor activities on a regular basis which contributes to their good health. They are taken out several times a week to many of the carers and children's groups and make use of many of the local parks where they can run freely in open space and have plenty of fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where most of the necessary safety precautions have been taken to minimise accidents, for example, sockets not in use are covered, the kitchen is inaccessible to the children, a smoke detector has been fitted and all low level glass is safe and secure. However, the cupboard in the back lounge is easy to get into and the fire blanket is not easily accessible in the kitchen in event of a fire. On outings children are kept safe, for example younger children are strapped into the pushchair using a safety harness and older children are always advised to hold onto the buggy.

Children are able to make their own choices and selections from a good range of toys easily accessible. They are stored in storage boxes, such as books, puzzles, soft toys, musical activity centres and large and small construction bricks.

Children are kept safe and protected because the childminder has a good understanding of possible signs and symptoms of abuse, enabling her to assess risk and protect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with a range of activities and play materials each day according to their age and stage of development. Their day include trips out to toddler groups where they participate in a range of indoor activities such as creative craft, play dough and music time. Children also enjoy playing alone or interacting with each other where they learn to socialise. They also benefit from the library where they can select books and, go on outings to the park to feed the ducks. These activities provide children with a range of experiences, which help promote their overall development.

The childminder has a positive relationship with the children, spends quality time with them talking, listening, singing songs and rhymes, reading stories and enjoys being close to them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well met. They are given the opportunity to learn about their environment and other people from around the world through a good range of resources promoting positive images of race religion and disability, for example, books, small world people, dolls and mixing and meeting people within the diverse community.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for children with special needs and is proactive in addressing issues, for example, where she has concerns for a child relating to a learning difficulty or disability; she would talk to parents and advise them to seek professional support.

All the children are valued, respected and treated as individuals. Their self-esteem and confidence is developed through good support and the use of positive re-enforcement, having an impact on their overall well-being. Children are well cared for in agreement with the parents wishes. The parents and childminder keep one another fully informed about the children at all times. The childminder also has clear written procedures which includes guidance on any concerns or complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well organised home providing a suitable area for rest, play, sleeping and time outdoors. The daily routine is structured allowing children to develop and learn through play. The childminder offers continuity of care, enjoys the children's company and is fully aware of their individual needs.

Documentation and all of the mandatory records are kept up to date and easily accessible.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children's Act inspection the childminder was asked to maintain the smoke alarm on the top floor and to obtain play materials with images of disability. All have been satisfactorily addressed.

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 an up to date first aid certificate on babies and young children
- ensure the fire blanket is easily accessible in the kitchen
- ensure that the cupboard in the rear lounge is inaccessible to the children

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