

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122901
Inspection date	12 February 2008
Inspector	Linda Close
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 good. 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 1996. At the time of this inspection there is one child present aged two years and three months. There are four other children on roll aged 10 years, seven years, three years three months and 13 months. All of the children attending are cared for on a part-time basis. The childminder lives with her husband and two children, both of whom attend school full-time. The family home is a house located in a residential road in the Earlsfield area of southwest London, within walking distance of Earlsfield main line train station. The local authority is Wandsworth.

Children have access to the sitting room, the dining room and the kitchen on the ground floor of the house and the bathroom and toilet are on the first floor. There is an enclosed garden at the rear of the house used for outdoor play. The family has a goldfish in a large bowl. The childminder is currently studying for a Certificate in Childcare, Learning and Development (CCCLD) which is a level three qualification. The childminder is a member of the National Childminders Association (NCMA) and the Wandsworth Childminders Association (WCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is safeguarded well by the childminder because she is very well informed about their health and allergies and she ensures that children's individual needs are met. She has updated her first aid training and keeps a suitable first aid kit to hand. Important medication is stored for immediate use but is not accessible to children, which supports their safety. The childminder provides children with fresh wipes to clean their hands before eating and she talks to them about having clean hands, which helps them to learn good routines for hygiene. Parents agree at the time of registration that children must not attend if they are unwell, which helps to prevent the unnecessary spread of infection.

Children enjoy a good range of healthy meals and tasty snacks which are selected with care to meet children's special dietary needs. Children have home cooked meals, which include chicken casserole and vegetables, and they eat with little help and with obvious pleasure. Parents are kept informed about children's food intake each day. They have fresh drinking water beside them throughout the day and the childminder encourages them to drink, which helps to maintain their hydration levels.

Children benefit from the childminder's belief in healthy exercise. They walk to and from school each day and they often visit the park and they attend several toddler groups on a regular basis to take part in energetic games and activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a pleasant, homely environment which is child friendly and welcoming. Children cannot leave the home unnoticed because security is good. Space is sufficient for children to play, eat and rest in comfort. They have easy access to suitable resources, which include boosters so that the younger children can all sit together at the table for meals. Children have a lovely selection of toys and an extensive collection of books. The toys, books and resources are of good quality and they are stored at a low level so that children can decide for themselves what they would like to play with.

Children are safe in the childminder's home because she carries out daily safety checks before they arrive. A stair gate prevents young children from accessing the stairs and catches on low level kitchen doors make cleaning materials and sharp utensils inaccessible to them. Younger children wear reins when they are out walking to ensure they do not run into the road and the childminder helps children to understand the Green Cross Code on their daily walks. Children are safe in relation to fire hazards because the childminder has a fire evacuation plan in place which is known to the children. Smoke alarms are located on both floors of the house and a fire blanket is stored appropriately in the kitchen.

Children's safety in relation to child protection issues is supported well. The childminder is well aware of the signs or symptoms that suggest ill-treatment and she knows what steps to take if she is concerned for the welfare of the children in her care. She keeps contact details for social services and Ofsted to hand.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a stimulating range of outings and activities with the childminder. She plans her week in advance to ensure that children can go out to play with others at toddler groups to develop their social skills. She walks everywhere with the children to give them exercise and to broaden their experience of the wider world. Children mostly take part in activities which include messy play and art work at the toddler groups. However, they also have worthwhile play opportunities at the childminder's home, which include exploring natural materials. They dig and plant seeds and bulbs in the childminder's garden.

Children sing spontaneously when they are playing, showing that they are happy and relaxed. They love to do puzzles and the range suits children at different stages of their development. Children make models with construction toys and their level of concentration is very mature. They show a growing ability to match shapes and fit things together. Children learn to say new words in their play because the childminder interacts with them effectively. They solemnly repeat the names of toy tools, including a hammer, a screwdriver and a spanner, as they play and they are learning the names of colours. The childminder takes children to the local library to choose books every week. They enjoy stories and books. They can watch carefully selected programmes on the television but it is not left on indefinitely.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The children enjoy continuity of care because the childminder has established an excellent relationship with parents. She finds out about children's culture, home language, likes and dislikes at the time of registration and in ongoing discussions with parents. She takes a very keen interest in children's individual dietary requirements and plans her menus accordingly. She ensures that she is fully informed about children's specific health issues so that she can provide them with the special care that they need to keep well. Parents share information about the childminder's service, her training, policies and procedures at the time of registration. They are kept fully informed about what their children do each day through discussions, scrapbooks, photos and notes.

Children enjoy a very good range of multicultural activities which are planned to help them to respect and accept diversity. The childminder has an excellent understanding of equal opportunities issues and she helps children to feel good about themselves. Children with learning difficulties are assured of sensitive support when they are with the childminder. She recognises their different moods and needs and helps them to overcome any feelings of anxiety. She liaises exceptionally well with parents so that the adults work as a solid team to help the children. She recognises children's strengths and helps them to move forward in their learning by providing them with suitably challenging toys and activities.

Children's behaviour is understood and managed skilfully. The childminder is firm but jolly and encouraging. She gives children stickers to acknowledge their efforts and helps them to feel valued. The childminder is an excellent role model. Her confident, calm ways combined with her polite manner of speaking to the children brings out the best in them.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder keeps children under her supervision at all times which ensures that they are kept safe from non-vetted persons. She has arranged emergency cover with other registered childminders who live locally, which contributes to children's safety. The childminder is active in her approach to training for her own professional development. She attends worthwhile courses on a regular basis in order to enrich her work with children and to keep abreast of current developments in childcare. All of the required documents and records are maintained correctly and held ready for inspection at any time. The childminder provides parents with contact details for Ofsted should they wish to make a complaint. She is well organised in most respects. She prepares her home and activities in advance so that she can devote her time to the children. The childminder acts correctly to ensure that children's health is protected in emergencies although information is not always shared with Ofsted. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection two recommendations for improvement were made. The childminder agreed to obtain resources that reflect positive images of disability. She now has suitable resources which promote children's understanding of different people. The childminder also agreed to seek parental consent for all children to receive emergency medical treatment. This is now in place which avoids unnecessary delay in an emergency situation.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required either the childminder or Ofsted to take any steps in order to meet the National Standards. The childminder is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents that 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 good. 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):

- ensure that Ofsted is kept informed about significant events.

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