

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122911
Inspection date	05 November 2007
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 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 1992. She lives with her family in a three-bedroom house in Battersea, situated close to local shops and bus routes. The local authority is Wandsworth. There are currently three children on roll who are cared for after school only. These children attend primary school and two of them are under eight years of age. However, no minded children were present at the time of this inspection.

There is one child in the family who attends primary school and there are five adult children although only two of these live at home. The childminder uses all areas of the home for childminding, with the exception of two bedrooms on the second floor. Minded children have access to the ground floor lounge, toilet, kitchen/diner and garden. The childminder is a foster carer for Wandsworth Borough Council. She mainly cares for children after school. She has completed a National Vocational Qualification at Level 3 in Childcare and Education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children can be cared for appropriately if they have a minor accident because the childminder has attended relevant first aid training and has suitable first aid resources to hand. However, some parents have not been asked to give their written permission for emergency medical treatment or advice for their children which risks delay. Medication and accident records are in place, although they have not been needed. Parents are informed at registration that children must not attend if they are unwell which prevents the unnecessary spread of infection. The childminder describes suitable systems for teaching children about good personal hygiene and in this way she prevents cross-infection.

In discussion the childminder shows that she is well informed about healthy eating. She ensures that children are provided with suitable food that is nutritious and meets their dietary and religious requirements. She describes a range of tasty meals that include fish, chicken, pasta and vegetables with desserts that are often fresh fruits or yoghourts. Children are given water or fruit juice to drink.

The childminder describes suitable activities that she provides to ensure that children benefit from healthy exercise. She sometimes takes children to the park on their way home from school. They use the fixed play apparatus and enjoy energetic play in the open space.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has arranged her home with children's comfort in mind. She provides a warm family environment for the children. An attractive range of photographs of family members is displayed together with photographs of the extended family which includes foster children and minded children. The home is secure and sufficiently spacious for children to play and rest in comfort. A wide selection of toys are stored where children can access them easily. The toys, books and resources are suitable for children from one to eight years of age. A modern computer is located in the lounge so that the childminder can monitor the games that children play.

The childminder describes a range of checks and routines that help to keep the children safe in her home and when travelling in her car. She ensures that there are sufficient safety belts and boosters in the car to promote children's safety. She has appropriate insurance in place for transporting minded children. She describes fire evacuation routines which she carries out on a regular basis so that children will not be afraid in an emergency situation. The childminder shows in discussion that she is aware of her responsibilities for keeping children safe in her home. She checks her home for safety frequently to ensure that no sharp or unsuitable items are accessible to children.

Children are safeguarded in relation to child protection issues because the childminder is well informed. She attends child protection training on a regular basis and can confidently describe the signs or symptoms that suggest ill-treatment. She knows what steps to take if she has concerns for the safety and wellbeing of the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder describes a suitable range of activities and play opportunities that she provides for the children currently minded. She is aware of the children's need for food, rest, play and relaxation after their busy day in school. Visits to the local library are sometimes enjoyed. The childminder offers the children resources for dressing up and imaginative play. They can choose to do drawing and colouring or they can share books together. Children have access to a modern computer for playing suitable games. In discussion the childminder demonstrates a satisfactory knowledge of how individual children develop and learn.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder shows in discussion that she has a sound knowledge and awareness of the importance of treating each child with equal respect and concern. She takes information from parents at the time of registration concerning each child's individual needs in relation to health issues, food requirements, likes and dislikes. This information helps the childminder to provide continuity of care. The childminder is a very experienced foster carer who often works closely with social services. She is well aware that some children may have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She understands the importance of working in partnership with parents and with other professionals to promote the welfare and development of each child.

The childminder describes a firm but easily understood set of house rules which she explains to children so that they know what she wants and expects from them in terms of behaviour. She shows a commitment to working with parents to manage children's behaviour in a consistent way. The childminder discusses the service that she offers with parents at the time of registration. They sign agreements and give most of the appropriate permissions. However, parents do not have access to contact information to enable them to contact Ofsted if they wish to make a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder and most adult children who live in, or visit, the home have been checked for suitability although one child of the family has passed their 16th birthday and has not yet applied for a suitability check. The childminder demonstrates a very positive approach to maintaining her knowledge and understanding of developments in childcare and early years education. She has attended a wide range of relevant training courses to aid her in her work with children including Treasure Baskets and Heuristic Play, Relaxation and Wellbeing and Birth to three matters for childminders.

The childminder has made most of the necessary improvements recommended at the last inspection. She understands the importance of working within the conditions of her registration relating to the number of children minded at any one time. She organises space and resources to meet the needs of the children. Registration documents, attendance records and other records are correctly maintained and kept ready for inspection at any time. However, information available for parents is not complete. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Three recommendations for improvement were made following the last inspection. The childminder agreed to improve fire safety precautions by maintaining the smoke alarm on the ground and first floors in working order. The smoke alarms are now working and this contributes to the children's safety. The childminder also agreed to complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children and to ensure that parents are informed about her policy regarding the exclusion of children who are sick and to tell parents how they may raise any concerns with Ofsted. Parents now know that they must not bring children if they are unwell which prevents the unnecessary spread of infection. The childminder has attended relevant first aid training which contributes to children's health and safety. However, parents do not have information to contact Ofsted if there is a need.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the childminder or Ofsted to take any action to meet the National Standards. The childminder 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):

- provide parents with contact information for Ofsted to enable them to complain if there is a need
- ensure that all members of the family have appropriate suitability checks as soon as they reach their 16th birthday.
- seek parental permission in writing for emergency medical treatment or advice.

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