

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124211
Inspection date	22 January 2008
Inspector	Cheryl Walker
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 1999. She lives with her husband in a house in South Croydon, which is within walking distance of transport links, shops and parks. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. Children have access to the kitchen, dining room for meals and lounge for quiet time. There is a rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children and is currently caring for one child on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Effective procedures are in place to promote children's health and hygiene. Children begin to learn about good hygiene practice because the childminder ensures they wash their hands before they eat their snacks and meals. They are reminded to wash their hands after using the bathroom, to remove any germs.

Up to date first aid training ensures that the childminder is able to cope with any minor accidents and good systems are in place to record these. However, written permission for emergency treatment or advice has not been sought from parents, which could cause delays in seeking treatment in an emergency.

The childminder is knowledgeable about healthy diets and discusses food preferences with parents to ensure children's needs are known and respected. Parents mainly provide meals for their children and the childminder ensures these are heated and cooled appropriately before giving them to the children. Snacks of fruit are available throughout the day, along with regular drinks.

A variety of physical play opportunities encourage children to develop a healthy lifestyle and take regular exercise. The childminder takes children to local resources and play areas and makes good use of her garden to encourage children to be active.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in clean premises using toys and equipment which are plentiful and in good condition. Most are stored within children's reach, making it easy for them to make choices about what they would like to play with. The childminder takes care to ensure children play with toys which are suitable for their age and stage of development.

Children are cared for in a well maintained home, where the childminder has taken appropriate action to reduce any risks. For example, cleaning materials and knives are out of reach, the front door is secure and a stair gate restricts access to the stairs. Suitable fire safety equipment is in place in the event of a fire.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of her role with regard to safeguarding children, though not all recording systems are currently in place to safeguard against allegations.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle quickly into the relaxed routine. Trusting relationships have been established, which help children to feel secure and confident in the childminder's care. Lots of warm interaction takes place and children receive regular attention. The childminder is very aware of children's individual needs because she spends time getting to know the children in her care and discussing their routine with parents.

Children participate in a varied and stimulating range of activities which encourage them to develop. They regularly socialise with other children when they visit local resources, for example a recent visit to a farm and play zone. In the home children happily play with an appropriate range of toys, enjoy looking at books and take part in role play activities.

The childminder is calm and positive in her dealings with the children. She engages in their play and interacts well with them. She sings and talks to them while she sees to their personal needs and responds to their requests for attention. Children are able to play freely and make choices about what they want to play with. They are comfortable in the childminder's home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children thrive within secure boundaries. They learn about acceptable behaviour as the childminder is a positive role model who uses praise to encourage good behaviour and is consistent in her management of children's behaviour.

Children are valued as individuals. They have opportunities to mix with others within the community because the childminder ensures they enjoy regular trips out. The childminder has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She recognises the need to work closely with parents and other agencies in meeting children's individual needs, regardless of their abilities.

Good relationships with parents have been established. The childminder keeps parents informed and up to date with their children's progress through verbal exchange of information

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from well organised play areas, allowing time for quiet and active play. They enjoy an environment where they receive sufficient adult support to help them feel secure and confident. Children's wellbeing is safeguarded because the childminder shows a good understanding of her responsibilities with regard to protecting them from persons that have not been vetted.

Most required documentation and systems for recording are in place. Overall, 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 develop her understanding of child protection procedures and to improve some areas of record keeping. The childminder shows a greater understanding of her responsibilities in regard to safeguarding children. Some areas of record keeping still require attention.

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 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):

- seek written parental permission for emergency medical treatment or advice
- keep records of existing injuries

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