

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124350
Inspection date	29 January 2008
Inspector	Lisa-Marie Jones

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?

This childminder has been registered since 1992. She lives with her husband and adult son. They live in a house situated on a residential road within walking distance of shops, schools, parks and public transport links. They are located in Addiscombe, which is within the London borough of Croydon.

Children have access to all areas on the ground floor and have the use of the bathroom on the first floor. There is a secure enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to provide care for four children under the age of eight years, she currently has three children on roll.

The childminder offers out of school care for children only. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and visits local places of interest, including parks and a library.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is very well promoted as the childminder has a clear understanding about the importance of following good hygiene practices. Children play in a very clean, uncluttered and organised home environment. Effective procedures are undertaken to protect children from illness and the risk of cross infection. All parents adhere to the written sick child policy and the childminder ensures that appropriate measures are taken when children are ill.

Children's health is further promoted as they take part in and enjoy a range of physical activities that help them to develop, for example, they go to the park everyday after school and use the garden for activities such as skipping. All food is freshly prepared each day and menus cater for all children's individual needs. Children state they like the food the childminder prepares and stated further that she is a 'very good cook'.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe as the premises are very safe and secure and are suitable for the purpose of childminding. The childminder takes positive steps to promote safety within the home and on outings, by following good written procedures and reinforcing road safety procedures with the children. Children have access to a range of toys and equipment that are well maintained and meet the needs of the children. They are organised so children can self select whatever age they are.

Children are further protected as the childminder is very aware of her responsibilities in relation to child protection procedures. She ensures that she fully complies with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures and has all the information available to her should she be concerned about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met and their welfare is promoted as the childminder provides activities and play opportunities to develop children's all round development. The service she provides is for school age children and she ensures that in the short time they are in her care they spend time in the fresh air at parks or go to local libraries. Children appear to be very happy in the childminder's care, they make themselves at home as soon as they arrive and help themselves to activities. They enjoy taking part in art and craft activities, which are taken home to share with parents. All the children readily agree that the childminder looks after them well and there is nothing that could be done better as in their eyes 'she is perfect '.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Equality of opportunity and anti discriminatory practice for all children is promoted. The childminder has a good understanding of all issues and ensures that she is fully aware of all the needs of the children in her care. Children have access to meaningful activities and resources

that reflect diversity, which gives them a wider view of the community and the world around them.

The childminder is very aware that some children have specific needs and is proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting, in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

Children's behaviour is good. The childminder has good written strategies in place to follow and has consistent expectations about acceptable behaviour, which are reinforced with children and agreed by parents at the time of placement.

Children benefit from the professional relationships between their parents and the childminder. Agreement forms are drawn up, which highlight the children's individual needs and all parents have copies of written policies and procedures. Parents have opportunities to talk through the children's progress with the childminder on a daily basis, which ensures continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from having a very experienced childminder, who ensures that children have access to the resources they require to meet their individual needs effectively.

Records which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, and to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained, however, a complaints log is not in place. The childminder has drawn up relevant policies and procedures to reinforce the service she provides and copies are given to all parents.

Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection one recommendation was made.

Children's health is now fully protected as written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment has been requested, should the occasion arise.

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 that 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):

- devise and implement a system to record complaints made by parents, which they can see on request

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