

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124653
Inspection date	13 February 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 1995. She lives with her husband and two children, aged 8 and 14 years. They are situated on a residential road within walking distance of shops, schools, parks and public transport links. They are located in Thornton Heath, which is within the London borough of Croydon.

Children have access to a front room, dining room, bedrooms and kitchen. They do not have access to the garden, but do go out for walks or to local parks on a daily basis. It was agreed at inspection to increase the childminder's numbers to, five children under eight when working on her own and six when working with an assistant. She currently has four children on roll under the age of eight years.

The childminder attends local carer and toddler groups on a regular basis. She is a member of the Croydon Childminding association and attends regular training and receives support from them. She is also undertaking a childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to develop an understanding about the importance of good hygiene practices as they are given opportunities to independently learn to wipe faces and noses. Effective written hygiene practices protect children from illness and risks of cross infection. Parents ensure they adhere to all written policies and procedures relating to sick children. All accidents, first aid treatment and administered medication is recorded accurately.

Children thrive from a balanced diet that meets their nutritional and dietary needs. Parents have the option to provide their own meals for younger children and babies, the childminder has suitable storage and heating facilities to accommodate this. She also has a certificate in food hygiene safety to ensure that all food is prepared properly.

Children take part in a range of physical activities, mainly outside in the fresh air, which also contributes to a healthy lifestyle. They regularly go on trips to the seaside and farms.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are protected well from the risk of accidental injury because the childminder follows effective written health and safety procedures, therefore, children are able to move around freely and independently. Children's safety is further protected during outings as the childminder follows strict written procedures, uses appropriate safety equipment and enforces road safety with the children.

Children choose from a wide range of play materials that are in good condition and are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They appeal to all ages and genders of children. Children have ample space to play in a welcoming and appropriate location.

Local safeguarding procedures are fully complied with and the childminder has a very good understanding of what to do if she is worried about a child. She has completed child protection training and has comprehensive written procedures to follow to ensure that children's overall wellbeing is paramount.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are mainly met and their welfare is promoted as the childminder informally plans and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's all round development. Children happily play along side each other with small world play. They have daily opportunities to extend their communication and social skills through attending toddler groups.

The childminder does not always fully take into account the Birth to three matters framework to encourage the children to be skilful communicators and competent learners. Occasional observations are made and shared with parents. The childminder has started to attend Early Years Foundation Stage framework training to help enhance observations and planning for children's developmental needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Written policies and procedures are followed to ensure equality of opportunity and anti discriminatory practice for all children is actively promoted. Children's individual needs are considered at all times, as all children are included and are encouraged to have a positive view of the wider community, through discussions and resources and covering topics and themes such as celebrating festivals from around the world.

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

The childminder has attended behaviour management training and has developed effective policies and procedures that are agreed with children. Subsequently, they play harmoniously together and are seen from a very young age to take responsibility for their actions and learn right from wrong.

Children benefit from successful and professional communication between their parents and the childminder. Purposeful two-way sharing of information ensures high quality, consistent care. Settling in procedures ensure that children are happy and settle quickly in her care. Written policies and procedures are available for parents, they are aware of the complaints procedure to follow, however they do not have access to a complaints record.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a well-trained and skilled childminder. They settle well in a setting that is well organised, and receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident and make progress in their development.

Well written, comprehensive policies and procedures guide and enhance the childminder's daily practice, however a complaints log is not in place.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection children's health, safety and documentation has greatly improved. Parents now adhere to the policy regarding the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious and the childminder has now obtained local contact details in the event of needing to make a child protection referral.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider to take 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 record of 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