

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	140000
Inspection date	07 March 2008
Inspector	Elizabeth Anne Coffey

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 was registered in 1993.

She lives with her husband and 14 year old daughter and adult son. They live in a first floor, three bedroom flat in Camberwell, in the London borough of Lambeth. There is no garden but a local park is within walking distance.

The childminder is registered to care for three children under eight and is currently minding one preschool aged child.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from regular exercise and fresh air. They enjoy trips to parks and playgrounds where they can freely run, climb and balance. They regularly visit one o'clock clubs where they can play with a selection of cars, buggies and wheeled toys. Children walk to local venues with the childminder and this ensures that they keep fit and active.

Children enjoy a balanced nutritious diet. The childminder takes care to identify individual children's dietary needs and likes and dislikes. At home, children eat at the table in the kitchen and a range of seats and a highchair are available to ensure that all ages can eat together in a social group. On occasions, the childminder prepares a picnic lunch which children can enjoy while they are out at the one o'clock club. Meals are freshly prepared and provide a healthy nutritious intake for the children. Fresh fruit and vegetables are offered as a snack and children have access to drinking water throughout the day.

Good hygiene practices help to promote the health of children. There are suitable nappy changing and toileting facilities available and the childminder ensures that all bodily fluids are dealt with in a safe hygienic manner. Children start to gain a good understanding of hygiene practices. The childminder takes time to talk to them, in language they can understand, about why they must use tissues to blow their nose and why they need to follow good hair and skin care routines.

A First Aid kit is available and easily accessible in the event of an emergency. The childminder has recently updated her first aid training. Parental consents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and to administer medication are obtained. There are appropriate record keeping systems in place for the recording of accidents and medication. However, the childminder failed to notify Ofsted, in line with current regulations, of a recent incident where a child required medical attention at a hospital.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in an organised and well maintained environment. The rooms are comfortable and well equipped, with a range of seating and soft furnishings which makes children feel relaxed and at home. Children benefit from close adult supervision, as they independently select activities from a range of toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder takes care to ensure children play with toys that are suitable for their age and stage of development. All the toys are cleaned regularly and checked to ensure there are no broken pieces.

Children learn how to behave in a manner that ensures their safety, both in the home and on outings. The childminder teaches the children about road safety and how to cross the road safely, whilst listening and looking out for oncoming traffic. Children eagerly recount how they push the button and wait for the 'green man' at the traffic lights. Outings are often planned in conjunction with other childminders and their children. This ensures maximum adult support and assistance in the event of an emergency and promotes the safety of children.

Children's safety is paramount and the childminder takes appropriate steps to identify and deal with hazards in the home. This includes the use of stair gates and safe storage of sharp utensils and cleaning materials. Suitable fire fighting and detection equipment is available although the fire blanket is not readily accessible in the kitchen. Furthermore, there is no emergency evacuation plan in place. This compromises children's safety.

Children are protected from harm by the childminder who has a satisfactory knowledge of child protection and understands her responsibilities in following correct procedures in the event of a concern. Appropriate contact numbers in the event of a child protection concern are readily available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very well settled at the childminder's house. They appear confident and make themselves at home quickly. Toys and resources are easy for them to access and they have ample opportunity to self-select from the stimulating range of resources on offer such as, construction, puzzles, and role play materials.

Children benefit from the childminder's knowledge of child development. Activities are well thought out and provide balance and challenge. Children eagerly engage in an activity with the childminder where they identify and name magnetic numbers and signs. Children interact well with the childminder. For example, during role play they confidently ask the childminder for assistance when dressing and undressing their dolls. Children's love of books and stories is enhanced by the wide selection of reading materials available which the childminder readily shares with them.

Very good use is made of community resources. Children attend one o'clock clubs and drop in sessions where they have opportunities to mix with other children of a similar age and to play with a wide variety of toys and equipment. Here children develop their social skills, such as, sharing and taking turns as they socialise with their peers. Outings to venues such as Legoland or the Horniman museum provide further opportunities for the children to play and explore in a variety of child friendly settings.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a meaningful range of activities and resources which promote a positive view of the world around them. For example, puzzles and books help to increase children's awareness of diversity. Through play and discussion with the childminder they learn about different cultures. Activities offered to children are age-appropriate and non-discriminatory. All children have equal opportunity to play with all toys and resources. All children are treated with equal concern.

Although there are no children currently attending with learning disabilities and/or difficulties, the childminder is keen to provide a fully inclusive service. She has a sound knowledge of the developmental milestones of different ages. She understands the importance of working closely with parents and other agencies to help support children and to ensure their needs are met.

Children benefit from the childminder's positive attitude towards behaviour management. They thrive because they know and understand the rules of the setting. Children are beginning to learn what is right from wrong. The childminder values and encourages good behaviour, using firm and fair strategies, which consider the developmental needs and maturity of the child. They are routinely praised and encouraged in all they do, which increases their confidence and self-esteem.

Children benefit from the effective partnership with parents. The childminder asks parents for relevant information about the child and their family in order that she can identify and understand their individual needs. Parental consents covering all aspects of the children's care and welfare are obtained. This enables the childminder to provide a service that meets the specific needs of each child. Information for parents, such as the registration certificate and the most recent inspection report, is clearly displayed. Parents are given copies of relevant

policies and procedures at the start of the placement and any further revision to these documents is shared with parents. This ensures that parents are adequately informed about the care of the children and the service provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease within the well organised environment. Children are confident and self-assured. This means that they are able to initiate and extend their learning and play. An appropriate range of resources contributes to valuable experiences for children. Children make good progress in all areas of development.

A range of policies and procedures developed by the childminder are used effectively and promote children's welfare, care and learning. These are shared with parents to ensure they are well informed about the care their children receive. The childminder has regard for the regulations in the National Standards.

Documentation is generally maintained to a good standard. The childminder is proactive in attending training and workshops that help to underpin her childminding knowledge and practice. She demonstrates a clear understanding of her role and responsibilities as a registered childminder. Where weaknesses are identified the childminder is keen to address these with immediate effect. 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 provider agreed to ensure that all persons over the age of 16 years were appropriately checked and to ensure that records were available for inspection at all times.

All persons over the age of 16 years in the household have been vetted. Required records are available on site.

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):

- ensure the fire blanket is readily accessible in the kitchen
- devise and practise an emergency evacuation plan
- ensure there is a system in place to notify Ofsted of any serious accidents or 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