

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	140061
Inspection date	04 October 2007
Inspector	Pamela Bailey
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 1999. She lives with her husband in the London Borough of Lambeth. The whole of the childminder's bungalow is used for minding except for two bedrooms. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder regularly works with an assistant. She is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time or a maximum of six children when working with an assistant. She is currently minding five children under five years and three children over five years, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local parks and attends the local parent/carer and toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Babies and young children's health is extremely well promoted. They receive lots of warmth and affection which supports their emotional well-being and gives them the confidence to

explore new experiences. The childminder has excellent systems in place to prevent the spread of infection and promote children's healthy growth and development.

Babies and young children enjoy and benefit greatly from a very good range of activities and routines which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Regular visits to the park and activities in the garden and indoors gives them plenty of opportunity to develop their physical skills, balance and coordination. They dance with excitement and enthusiasm, use small tools to dig in the garden and use a range of climbing and sit and ride toys with confidence. Children gain new skills and develop their confidence because the childminder has a good understanding of appropriate activities and the level of support individuals require. For example, babies are supported to bounce on the trampoline and young children enjoy catching, throwing and heading balloons. Babies and young children rest and sleep according to their individual routines, as discussed with parents. The childminder monitors and records their sleep, nappy changes and food and drink intake. This ensures continuity of care and contributes to their physical well-being.

Babies and young children benefit from a healthy, varied and nutritious diet. They enjoy lots of fresh fruit such as grapes and blueberries, salads and vegetables which are attractively presented and prepared according to their age and stage of development. This helps children to develop healthy eating habits from an early age. Babies receive regular drinks to ensure they do not become thirsty or dehydrated and children can help themselves to a drink whenever they need one. The childminder encourages children to drink plenty of water throughout the day.

The childminder gathers all relevant information regarding children's medical needs. She monitors and keeps a record of the symptoms of children's ailments whilst in her care and any contagious illnesses they have had such as chicken pox. Parents give prior written consent to administer medication to children and the childminder ensures that records are accurately maintained. Although the childminder has not obtained prior written permission from parents to seek emergency treatment or advice she has a positive attitude to implementing this immediately. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and the first aid box is sufficiently stocked. Parents are kept well informed about any accidents and the childminder ensures that the accident records are countersigned by the parents. Children play and learn in a very clean home where they learn to follow good hygiene practices. The childminder's own good practice helps to prevent cross infection.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children use a wide variety of good quality equipment and resources appropriate to their age and stage of development. They are cared for in a very safe and secure environment where any risks are identified and minimised. For example, a safety gate at the entrance of the kitchen prevents children having unsupervised access. The premises is secure both inside and out ensuring children are unable to leave the premises without a suitable adult. The childminder is vigilant about fire safety. She ensures all exits are clearly labelled, smoke alarms are in good working order and fire fighting equipment is easily accessible.

Children are beginning to learn to keep themselves safe. Good routines and gentle reminders help to develop children's awareness of safety. For example, children regularly practice emergency evacuation and are reminded of how to use equipment safely. There are clear procedures for outings. The childminder ensures that equipment used for travelling is age

appropriate, all documentation required for the vehicle is up to date and parents give the necessary consent.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and what action to take if she is concerned about a child in her care or if an allegation is made against her or any adults working with the children. However, she does not have the Local Safeguarding Children's Board child protection procedures or contact details in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Babies and young children very much enjoy their day. They participate in a huge range of activities, which develops new interests and extends their knowledge and development. They are able to play independently but also receive good support from the childminder, who is actively involved in their play.

Children enjoy an extensive range of activities, which contribute to their creativity and imagination. They act out well known songs, such as pretending to walk through the jungle imitating different animals and being in a circus band. They experiment with sounds as they tap out rhythms and march in time to the music. They enjoy singing sessions and have a good repertoire of songs and action rhymes. The childminder supports babies to standing position so that they can bounce to the music. They explore different textures during sand and water play and express themselves creatively through a range of medium such as painting and drawing.

Children's early communication skills are extremely well supported through spontaneous, but high quality adult to child interactions. Children are listened to and their learning extended, as the childminder asks questions and introduces them to new vocabulary.

The childminder finds out about the children's skills, interests and needs and builds on this information effectively to help children to fulfil their potential. She accommodates children's individual routines and interests fully within the day. For example, babies can crawl in a child friendly environment and older children receive help with their homework, help to prepare their snacks and take part in cooking activities.

Children's gross and finer motor skills are developing well. They use small tools to explore the outdoor environment, construction equipment to make models and negotiate space well when riding wheeled toys.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are valued and cared for according to their individual needs. They receive equal attention and genuine affection from the childminder. Although there are no children currently attending with learning difficulties and/or disabilities the childminder was able to demonstrate how she would assess the child's needs to determine whether appropriate care could be provided.

Children have access to some resources inside the childminder's home that reflect positive images of race and gender, such as dolls and books. However, none reflect disability. They gain an increasing understanding of the local and wider environment through trips to the park, children's group and farm.

Children's self-confidence is evident and is well promoted as they receive lots of positive praise and encouragement from the childminder resulting in their enjoyment and contentment. Children are very well behaved because the childminder is clear about the need to promote children's positive behaviour and self-esteem.

The childminder has good strategies for building relationships with parents and carers, which contributes significantly to children's wellbeing. Children's individual routines are adhered to and any changes discussed with parents. Individual diaries detail information about the children's day and daily chats with parents keep them up to date with their child's progress and welfare. Parents receive sufficient information about the complaints procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children thrive because the childminder follows effective procedures and practices which meet children's physical, nutritional and health needs. She has very good understanding of how children develop and learn which positively promotes their enjoyment and achievement. Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and they are happy and settled in a calm and well-organised environment. This gives them the confidence to move around freely, independently and make choices. Effective supervision and daily routines between the childminder and assistant mean children can choose to play indoors or outdoors and suitable arrangements are in place for school runs and events.

All records such as accidents, medication and attendance registers are appropriately maintained and most documentation is in place. The childminder and parents share information. This helps to ensure that children receive individual care and attention and ensures continuity of care.

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 agreed to improve partnership with parents. The childminder has made significant improvements. Parents receive relevant information and give consent to administering medication and allowing the assistant to be left in sole charge of children. This promotes children's welfare.

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):

- obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- obtain the Local Safeguarding Children's Board child protection procedures and contact details
- improve the range of resources that reflect positive images of disability

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