

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	143895
Inspection date	13 November 2007
Inspector	Angela Ramsey
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in January 2000. She lives with her partner and three children aged 11, 14 and 18 years in a three bedroom house in the London Borough of Lambeth. The whole of the ground floor, plus the first floor bathroom, are used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is currently registered to care for four children under eight years at any one time. At the time of this inspection there were no children present.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder showed a sound knowledge of how to promote the good health of children in a positive way, for example her regular cleaning routines ensure that her home is kept clean. Kitchen and bathroom surfaces are cleaned with anti-bacterial spray. When caring for children she reminds them to wash their hands before and after eating, and after using the bathroom.

The successful completion of first aid course enables the childminder to administer first aid treatment to any minor injuries children may receive. However, the childminder has not obtained parental consent to seek emergency treatment or advice. Therefore parents' wishes are not known.

The childminder has a cat who is taken to the vet to ensure he remains healthy and his water and food bowls are kept out of children's reach.

Discussions with the childminder show that parents' wishes are respected regarding food given to children. If parents opt to provide their own meals these are stored appropriately to ensure they remain fresh.

When caring for children the childminder provides opportunities for them to enjoy physical activities, such as when they visit the local park or when playing in the childminders' garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Observations suggest that the rooms used for childminding purposes provide adequate space for children to play in comfort. Children also have access to a fully enclosed garden. However, the recently installed pond does not have a cover.

A safety gate, fire blanket, smoke alarms, electrical safety socket covers and an adequately stocked first aid box ensure that children when being cared for are generally safe from harm. However, although the childminder has thought about evacuating her home in an emergency. This procedure is not practised with the children to ensure that the procedures are familiar to them should an emergency arise.

Through discussions and observation it is evident that toys and resources provided are age appropriate and therefore suitable for the ages of children the childminder is registered to care for.

The childminder verbally demonstrated a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures. However, a system is not in place to record any concerns that may arise. Parents are informed of her duty to report any concerns quickly to prevent a child from suffering further abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

A satisfactory range of toys and resources are available for children to enjoy. The childminder explained that when caring for children she puts out a selection of toys for children to choose

from. Her selection of resources include items, such as, fuzzy felt, duplo, dolls, books, paints, toddler toys that encourage children to press buttons, board games, puzzles and videos.

The childminder also makes use of resources in her area, such as childminding groups and one o'clock clubs. Here children are able to socialise with others. The childminder explained that she provides activities that are fun, age appropriate, stimulating and motivate children's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder explained that she develops positive relationships with parents through daily communication. She keeps parents informed of their children's day, for example she informs parents of the activities their child has taken part in, what they have eaten and so on. However, the childminder is not aware of her duty to keep a log of complaints and to provide parents with the contact details of Ofsted.

The childminders selection of resources includes those which reflect equality. When looking at books children are able to learn about others as these books contain positive images of culture. Children are encouraged to behave well. This is achieved through clear and consistent boundaries that are set regarding children's behaviour. The childminder explains the importance of sharing, taking turns and being kind to each other.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is organised and age appropriate resources are available. When caring for children she adheres to the conditions of her registration, which allows her to offer levels of individual support to the children in her care.

Through discussions and observations it is apparent that the childminder uses appropriate levels of supervision to keep children safe and secure within her home and when on outings. Children are provided with opportunities to experience a range of stimulating activities and regularly spend time in the fresh air as well as in the childminder's home.

The records that are kept are organised to promote the care and welfare of children and appropriately shared with parents. When not in use records are securely stored to maintain privacy. However, not all of the adult members of the childminder's home have completed background check forms.

Overall, the evidence suggests the provision would meet the needs of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection required that the childminder: ensure that toys and equipment are easily accessible to the minded children and that there is an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practise; improve fire safety precautions by drawing up and practicing an emergency escape plan and ensure that medication or emergency treatment consent forms are signed by parents.

Toys are easily accessible and the selection is age appropriate and includes books and dolls that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has thought through her emergency evacuation procedure, however, this is not practised with the children. The childminder does not administer medication. Consent forms regarding emergency treatment or advice are not in place.

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

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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):

- implement a method for recording incidents
- ensure fire drills are practised with the children
- ensure pond is made safe
- obtain parental consent to seek emergency treatment or advice
- ensure parents are provided with the contact details of Ofsted
- ensure all adult family members complete background check forms

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