



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	124256
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 September 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Sandra Patricia Jeffrey

<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 1997. She lives with her partner and 11-year-old son. They live in the London Borough of Croydon, close to local amenities and transport links.

The whole of the ground floor is available for childminding. Bathroom facilities are on the first floor. There is a back garden for outside play, which is used under supervision.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of two children at any one time

and is currently minding one child aged under eight and one child aged over eight. The younger child attends full time. She attends local amenities, including toddler groups and parks on a regular basis. The family have no pets.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a safe and warm environment where they learn to follow good hygiene procedures. Children receive appropriate support to develop good personal hygiene skills. They learn the importance of hand washing after toileting and before meals to prevent the spread of infection.

The children enjoy a range of physical activities, which include walking to local parks and toddler groups and playing in the garden. Regular physical exercise contributes to keeping them healthy.

Children receive a range of healthy meals and snacks including fresh fruit and vegetables. Drinks are freely accessible throughout the day. The childminder is aware of their likes and dislikes, and respects their individual dietary needs. By following parental wishes and the children's choice, the childminder ensures that food meets all of the children's dietary requirements.

Most records relating to health issues are adequately maintained.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children play and learn in a well organised environment where they can move around freely and independently. The childminder has a good understanding of fire safety, which includes evacuation in an emergency. However, the childminder has not practised this evacuation plan with the children, which could compromise their safety in an emergency.

Children have access to a range of toys and activities, which the childminder ensures are safe and suitable for their age and stage of development. Children can independently select from this range of toys, which gives them freedom of choice.

The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare and has the required procedures and documents in place. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a good understanding of child protection procedures, including her role in keeping children safe, in line with the latest government guidance.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children develop good relationships with the childminder, who is responsive to their individual needs. The children respond well to the childminder's positive interactions, which enable them to develop their language skills for example; such as with repeated counting of building blocks. The children receive good support and encouragement in their activities, allowing them to feel secure in their environment.

A suitable range of play materials to stimulate and develop the children's imagination is available. Children take part in a variety of activities that support their development including art and craft activities, outdoor activities and free play. Children develop a good sense of achievement because the childminder shows an interest in their play. The childminder introduces new experiences to extend their learning, such as taking the children to various local amenities including parks and toddler groups.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are secure in the care of the childminder, who is aware of their individual needs and routines. The childminder respects parents' wishes, which contributes to the children's sense of well-being. Younger children are beginning to learn important social skills, such as right and wrong and how to share.

Children behave well and know what the behaviour boundaries are within the home. Behaviour management is appropriate for the age and stage of development of the children. Strategies in use include positive reinforcement, distraction, explanation, and time out when needed and appropriate.

Communication between the parents and the childminder is good. They talk to each other daily about any events and plans. This helps to provide the children with consistency of care and attention. Most policies and procedures are in place to share with parents and written business agreements are up to date. However, a complaints procedure is not available for the parents should they have any cause for concern about the service or the care of their children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from good adult support, which helps them feel secure and confident. The childminder has good knowledge of childcare, which she uses to promote the welfare of the children. The childminder shares information with parents during regular informal discussions and this contributes to continuity of care for the children.

Most records and documentation are up to date and all are stored securely to maintain confidentiality. The childminder keeps records of medication given to minded children; but does not keep written parental permission to administer these medicines. Therefore, the childminder would not be fully equipped with relevant

information to care for minded children in an emergency, which could have an adverse impact on the wellbeing of the children.

Polices and procedures currently do not include a complaints procedure. The childminder is to ensure that the certificate of registration is on display at all times when minding.

Over all the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to develop documentation to improve the organisation of care and to ensure that parents are informed of events involving their children.

The childminder now keeps records in relation to children's food intake and children's behaviour management progress where relevant and shares these with parents as required. This ensures that parents receive better information about the care of their children and ensures continuity of care.

The childminder was also asked to ensure that she held written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. This is now in place, ensuring that children receive appropriate treatment quickly.

Area Child Protection Committee guidelines were to be obtained and read. These are now in place and the childminder is familiar with child protection procedures in line with the latest government guidance. Therefore improving the wellbeing of the children in her care.

The childminder was also asked to ensure that garden plants and an under stairs cupboard were made safe. These areas have now been made inaccessible to minded children therefore ensuring their safety.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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
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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):

- practice the emergency evacuation procedure with minded children.
- obtain and keep written permission from parents before administering medication to children
- extend policies and procedures to include a complaints procedure. Ensure the certificate of registration is displayed at all times when minding.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)