



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122993
Inspection date	02 November 2005
Inspector	Mauvene Burke
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 and their daughter aged nine. Also living on the premises are two lodgers. They live in a five bedroom house which is situated in a quiet road in Mitcham, in the London borough of Merton. There are shops, a recreation ground, and a toddler group within a few minutes walk. The areas used for childminding are all downstairs rooms and one bedroom on the first floor for sleep and rest periods. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

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

and is currently minding three children under five all day. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they are beginning to learn about the importance of good personal hygiene for example, wiping their hands before and after eating. They are given individual towels, flannels and bibs which are colour-coded and provided by the childminder. The childminder has mostly developed effective procedures to ensure that children are protected from the risk of illness and infection, however, not enough attention is given to ensure that children are fully protected from infection because the nappy changing mat is not always cleaned between individual children being changed.

Children enjoy a range of organic meals provided by their parents. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and provides organic snacks that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs. The children benefit from a range of outdoor play activities on a daily basis. This provides them with regular exercise and fresh air, for example, they enjoy running around on the green outside the childminder's home where they can kick balls, they have access to the park where they can climb and access to a toddler gym where they can jump.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a spacious home where risks are identified and minimised. This means that children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder helps children to understand how to keep themselves safe by talking to them and pointing out dangers such as when children stand on the toy boxes and giving clear reasons why they shouldn't hurl wooden bricks about. The childminder has developed systems to safely evacuate the house in an emergency.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has an understanding of child protection procedures.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment which meets safety standards.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have good opportunities to learn through their play. They benefit from being involved in a wide range of interesting and well thought out activities that the childminder plans weekly and shares with parents. Children enjoy looking at books with the childminder and they join in with familiar stories and songs, for example they clap their hands and play musical instruments in time to the songs. Children relate well to each other and socialise with other children through regular attendance at local toddler groups. The childminder responds well to the children's needs, lifting them up when they need for a cuddle before settling them back to play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are learning to value and respect differences as the childminder provides a good range of positive images and resources available to reflect diversity. They are developing at their own rate as the childminder knows them well and provides age appropriate activities for them.

Children behave well and play together harmoniously. Children are beginning to learn right from wrong because the childminder is consistent in her approach to behaviour management. They are being encouraged to share and to take turns.

Effective partnerships with parents ensure that children receive consistency in the care that they are given. At the start of each placement, parents are given copies of the childminder's policies and procedures. Parents of the children currently being minded have expressed in letters how happy they are with the care that the childminder offers.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease in this well organised environment which allows children's needs to be met and which is set out so that children have a variety of activities and can move around safely and securely.

Policies and procedures are mostly used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. They are shared with parents who are kept well informed about the service and their children's activities. However, the childminder has not ensured that all adults living on her premises are suitably vetted.

The childminder regularly attends training relating to child care which helps to further enhance the service she provides. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Improvement since the last inspection has been good. The childminder now has a register where she records children's daily attendance and which now meets

regulations. Tools that were kept in the kitchen have been removed and children are no longer able to access the kitchen cabinet, as the lock has been repaired, thus ensuring the children's 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 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):

- improve nappy changing arrangements to minimise the spread of infection
- ensure all adults living on premises completes their disclosure forms and that these are sent off to the Criminal Records Bureau

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