

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY288893
Inspection date	22 May 2008
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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since August 2004. She lives with her 11 year old daughter in the London borough of Lambeth.

The premises comprises of two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom and separate toilet. Minded children have access to all areas except the childminder's bedroom. The garden is also used.

The childminder is registered to care for two children aged one to eight years. She is currently caring for one child.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's awareness of good hygiene practices is raised through their everyday routines. For example, children are reminded to wash their hands before eating their meals and snacks. Nappy

changing procedures are good. The childminder wears gloves and cleans the changing mat after each use. This sustained level of hygiene helps to prevent the spread of infection.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has up to date knowledge of first aid. However, she has not obtained written parental permission to seek emergency advice or treatment. Parents are informed that she does not care for children if they are suffering from infectious illnesses.

Parents provide meals and snacks for their children. These are stored appropriately and warmed through before being served.

Children enjoy physical activities which contribute to their good health. Children are taken to local parks, childminding groups and a one o'clock club. Here children enjoy riding wheeled toys, and increase their ball control as they throw, kick and catch balls. These activities help to develop their coordination, balance and physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder takes positive steps to promote safety within her home. For example, a safety gate prevents children having unsupervised access to the kitchen. This enables children to move around safely and independently. The childminder also ensures children are safe when on trips. For example, young children are safely harnessed in their buggies. However, the childminder has not obtained parental permission to take children on public transport. Therefore parents' wishes are not currently known.

A smoke alarm has been fitted, a fire blanket is available in the kitchen and fire exits are marked. The childminder has also devised an emergency evacuation procedure, though this is not practised with the children.

Children are supervised at all times including when they are asleep. The children are able to choose activities from a variety of quality resources, which the childminder makes sure are suitable for their age and stage of development, so they can play safely. The drain cover in the garden is broken and therefore unsafe.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has attended training in child protection. She is clear regarding her role and responsibilities and the procedure to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, content and settled within the childminder's home. They play in the living room, children are able to independently choose from a varied selection of resources, which enables children to build on their natural curiosity. The children relate well to the childminder, because she joins in with their play and is very positive in her interaction. Children experience a varied range of activities, both inside and outside of the home; this contributes to their overall development.

Children are able to explore and play with the activities available. Children sit on the mat and play with duplo, shape sorters, puzzles and a baby gym. Whilst in the childminder's care children

also enjoy looking at books together. At this time children sit with the childminder looking at the pictures as the childminder reads. Trips are planned, for example, visits to childminding groups and one o'clock clubs, where children develop their social skills as they meet with other children. This also develops their emerging confidence and their language and communication skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder is able to meet children's individual needs. Parents complete details about their child and she uses the information to plan for each child's care needs.

Children behave well. The childminder praises and encourages their efforts, this builds their self esteem. Children are able to self select what they want to play with which enhances their independence.

Resources that promote equality of opportunity are provided. Children are helped in their awareness of the wider world, for example, whilst looking at books which depict others of different cultures. Children are also able to celebrate festivals, such as Eid and Easter whilst at childminding groups.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder is caring for a child aged under one year. This is a breach of the conditions of the childminder's registration, as the childminder is registered to care for children aged over one year. This is clearly stated on her certificate which has been in force since 2004. This highlights the childminders lack of knowledge and understanding of the conditions of her registration.

Some documentation is in place to support the organisation of the childminding service, which includes basic records when acting as a 'stand by' childminder for a friend, who is also a registered childminder. Children's needs are met in terms of the sound working relationships and communication with the parents of minded children. Parents are well informed about their child's day and the care provided.

The childminder has devised policies which are shared with parents. However, the childminder has failed to obtain parental permission to take children on public transport, nor has she obtained written parental permission to seek emergency advice or treatment for all children including 'an emergency placement' child who was being cared for by the childminder on the day of the inspection.

Overall, the childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that the ages of minded children comply with conditions of registration all times

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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