



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	140056
Inspection date	10 October 2005
Inspector	Elizabeth Anne Coffey

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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered to care for children since 1985. She lives in a two bed roomed house in West Norwood, in the London borough of Lambeth. Children are cared for mainly on the first floor where the bedrooms and bathroom are located. The front bedroom is used as a playroom by the children. Children only use the ground floor living room to access the back garden which is used for outdoor play. No other adults or children live at the property.

The childminder is registered to care for two children under eight years and is currently caring for two children, one of whom attends on a full time basis and one on

a part time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their good health. They are learning to develop control of their bodies through both indoor and outdoor play. Babies and young children are able to sleep at times that match their natural body rhythms because the childminder provides a flexible routine that is adapted according to their particular needs on the day.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn valuable lessons in personal care such as when to wash their hands. This promotes children's health and safety.

Children enjoy a healthy balanced diet which includes freshly prepared meals and fruit. The childminder takes into account the wishes of parents in providing nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to children and meet their dietary needs. However parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is not held and this could result in a delay in obtaining appropriate treatment in the event of an emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe because the childminder has identified and minimised risks in the home. They are protected from potential hazards such as stairs and hazardous materials by appropriate use of safety equipment and safe storage arrangements by the childminder. Children begin to learn valuable lessons in personal safety such as road safety on journeys to and from school and on visits to local parks.

Children benefit from close adult supervision as they independently select activities from a range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. Children are protected from harm by the childminder who has a good knowledge of child protection procedures and ensures that children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have fun and react with pleasure and glee to both new and well known experiences. Babies and toddlers develop their coordination and mobility with good support from the childminder. Children's confidence and self esteem is boosted by building on what they already know and succeeding at new challenges. The

childminder encourages and supports them in their play and actively joins in their games to help extend their fulfilment and learning.

Babies and young children develop good communication skills because the childminder chats and sings to them throughout the day. She provides cuddles and reassurance to them, for example gently rocking a baby to sleep before settling them in their cot. New children are helped to settle in by a childminder who is calm and patient in her approach and takes time to get to know each child well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to learn about their local community through walks and discussions. The childminder provides an excellent range of resources to promote a positive view of the wider world. This helps to increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others, for example children play with dolls of different colour that are dressed in traditional dress that the childminder herself has handmade.

The childminder has a positive approach towards caring for children with a range of needs and abilities.

The childminder uses age appropriate strategies to deal with children's behaviour. Children's self esteem is raised by good use of praise and encouragement by the childminder. Parents views are sought and care is provided in line with their wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is enhanced by efficient and effective organisation. The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of childcare and ensures her ongoing professional development by attendance at relevant courses and workshops. This helps to underpin her childminding practice and ensures children receive care that is of a good standard. She understands and complies with most regulatory requirements, although some aspects of documentation are insufficient to meet National Standards. This compromises children's health and safety. Where weaknesses in the system are identified she is keen to address these in order to ensure that her service reflects best practice. 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 agreed to: ensure cleaning materials were not accessible to children; maintain an accident records which is signed by parents and improve her own knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures.

Cleaning materials are now stored out of children's reach. No accidents have

occurred although the childminder has in place a record book which she would use to record accidents and which would be signed by parents. The childminder has updated her knowledge of child protection and has required documentation in place. This improves the health and safety and the welfare of children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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):

- maintain a record of children's actual hours and days of attendance
- seek written parental permission for emergency medical advice or treatment

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