

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124850
Inspection date	25 April 2008
Inspector	Cheryl Walker
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 has been registered since 1992. She lives in a residential area of South Croydon, within walking distance of shops, schools, library and parks. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children aged under eight years at any one time. Three children were on roll at the time of the inspection and one child was present during the inspection visit.

There are no pets in the household. 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 play in a clean environment, where risks of the spread of infection are minimised. The childminder ensures that toys and equipment are cleaned regularly, particularly those that

children put into their mouths. Hand washing and cleaning takes place after nappy changing to reduce the risk of cross-infections and nappies are immediately disposed of. Children from an early age are introduced to good hygiene habits as they wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet.

Appropriate procedures are in place for when children are unwell and the childminder holds a current first aid certificate, enabling her to deal effectively with children's accidents. A record of accidents is well maintained. A system for the administration of medication is in place, however, it lacks information, for example when the last dose of medication was given.

Meals and snacks are healthy and nutritious. The childminder takes care to identify individual children's dietary needs, likes and dislikes. Sample menus are available for parents to view and parents are informed at the end of each day what their children have eaten. Initially, arrangements are that parents provide food until their child is confidently eating finger foods. Children eat at the table and a range of booster seats and a highchair are available to ensure that all ages can eat together in a social group.

Children enjoy regular opportunities for fresh air and exercise. The childminder takes children out daily or makes use of her garden to ensure children can practise their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a welcoming environment where they can self-select from a range of good quality toys and resources. All equipment is checked regularly to ensure it is safe and suitable for the children using it. Most is stored within children's reach, making it easy for them to make choices about what they would like to play with. Children are carefully supervised and are able to move around safely, freely and independently.

Children's awareness of road safety is enhanced as the childminder encourages them to hold hands, cross the road at pedestrian crossings and wait for the green man signal. The childminder has clear written emergency plans, which have been shared with parents and appropriate fire safety measures are in place. She has risk assessed her home to ensure potential hazards have been removed and consistently considers children's safety whether inside or outside of the home.

The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare and has all the required procedures and documents in place. She has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local safeguarding procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are cared for by an experienced childminder who demonstrates a sound understanding of the children's development stages and is aware how quickly they move from one stage to the next. This helps to ensure activities are suitably levelled, sustain children's interest and foster their development.

Children enjoy a balanced routine of indoor and outdoor play, trips to groups, visits to the library and local parks. The routine is varied and adapted to accommodate children's individual patterns of rest and play times. Children laugh and share a good sense of fun with the

childminder as they toddle from room to room, playing peek-a-boo. They readily approach the childminder for cuddles, indicating that warm relationships have been established.

Children are inquisitive and happily explore the resources available to them. The childminder sits with the children to engage in their play, interacting positively to support their developmental needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are valued as individuals. They have choice in their activities and are treated with equal concern. They benefit from meeting people within the community, playing with resources that reflect race and culture and being given equal choice about what they can play with. The childminder provides an inclusive service and works positively with parents to meet children's needs.

Children benefit from the childminder's positive attitude towards behaviour management. They thrive because they know and understand the rules of the setting and begin to learn what is right from wrong. The childminder values and encourages good behaviour, using firm and fair strategies, which consider the developmental needs and maturity of the child. They are routinely praised and encouraged in all they do, which increases their confidence and self-esteem.

Good relationships with parents have been established. The childminder keeps parents informed and up-to-date through a daily exchange of information. She records children's developmental progress and shares these records with parents on a regular basis.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel comfortable and at home within the well organised setting. They benefit from an experienced childminder that provides a good variety of valuable experiences for children, enabling them to make good progress in their development.

A range of policies and procedures developed by the childminder are used effectively and promote children's welfare, care and learning. These are shared with parents to ensure they are well informed about the care their children receive. Most documentation is well maintained. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to obtain a first aid certificate and update the contents of the first aid box. Improvements were also needed concerning the maintenance of the attendance register. All actions have been met. The childminder has updated her first aid knowledge to ensure she can appropriately deal with any accidents and has ensured she has suitable resources to do so. The attendance register now meets with regulatory requirements.

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

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):

- ensure information obtained for administration of medication is comprehensive

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