



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122931
Inspection date	07 September 2005
Inspector	Tracy Maria Clarke

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 1991. She lives in Tooting, South West London, and her home is within close proximity of shops, local amenities and transport facilities.

The childminder lives with her husband and two adult daughters.

The ground floor of the property is mainly used for childminding, consisting of a kitchen/diner, shower room, rear reception room and front sitting room. The rear

bedroom is used for children to sleep or rest. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for 4 children under 8-years; of these, not more than 3 may be under 5-years, and of these, not more than 1 may be under 1-year. The childminder currently cares for 2 children aged 12-months and 4-years of age, both whom were present during the inspection. The childminder supports children with special educational needs.

The childminder is a member of the Wandsworth Childminding Association and also undertakes work as a specialist childminder for the local authority social services department. She receives support and training from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children undertake some physical play activities in the garden, which provides them with space to run and chase one another, and they have access to toys which they can push and pull along. Within the home there are a few resources which enable them to develop their hand and eye co-ordination, such as telephones and electronic keyboards, which they press to make different sounds. However, the limited range of activities provided, particularly for older children, does not sufficiently challenge children in their physical development. Children rest when they need to, but they are not helped to become aware of the way rest and physical activity affects their body, or why these are important in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm home, and are helped to develop appropriate hygiene practices, for example washing their hands before eating and after messy activities. The childminder follows good hygiene practices when preparing and storing food, and takes appropriate steps to reduce the risk of cross infection when changing nappies.

Children enjoy healthy lunches, which are provided by their parents. They have regular opportunities during the day to access drinks. Their individual dietary needs are taken into account by the childminder, although meal and snack time arrangements do not encourage good table manners, as children are not able to sit at a table to eat. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children are provided with food which they enjoy. However, children are not helped to understand the benefits of a healthy diet, as most snacks provided are unhealthy, such as crisps.

The childminder does not hold a current first aid certificate, which affects her ability to provide appropriate first aid care, should a child require this. She has not obtained parental consent for emergency medical treatment, which may affect children receiving appropriate treatment. Although she has sought permission to administer medication, she has not kept a record of the medication given to children, and shared this with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment as the childminder takes action to minimise risks for children by making hazardous items inaccessible to them. Her home is spacious and this enables children to move around freely and safely. The location of the toilet and wash hand basin on the ground floor, encourages children to take themselves to the toilet and wash their hands independently.

The garden is safe and secure, and provides ample space for children to use equipment safely. Children are learning to use toys safely and beginning to understand the rules governing the safe use of equipment. When going out of the home, children are encouraged to cross the road safely and to develop an understanding of why it is important to hold hands and to wait at the kerb side until it is safe to cross.

Children have access to a small range of toys, which are safely made and appropriate for their age and stage of development. They are well supervised throughout the day, due to the appropriate organisation of the childminder and the layout of the areas used for childminding.

Children are well protected as the childminder is aware of child protection issues and knows what to do if she is concerned that a child is being abused or is at risk.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is inadequate.

Children benefit from the childminder being attentive to their physical care needs and their independence is encouraged, as they select and play with the toys of their choice. Children enjoy playing in the garden, for example they push toys around and sit on the play mat exploring manufactured resources. However the potential for children to enjoy new experiences and to build on or develop new skills is limited as too few activities are offered and there are too few toys, books and play materials to sustain children's interest and support learning. Although the childminder organises the available toys and resources so that children can freely access them and choose independently, the limited range provided, hinders children from developing their creative and imaginative skills.

Occasionally children visit a local group, where they take part in craft activities and singing. However, they do not have opportunities to continue these activities at home with the childminder, as she provides few activities in the home. Limited resources and inadequate planning results in children having few opportunities to listen to stories and enjoy books, complete a range of puzzles, and take part in a wide range of activities that offer appropriate challenge and encourage their development in all areas.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children's daily care routines are met, as the childminder undertakes discussions with parents to establish information regarding their child. She also shares information with parents about their child's day and uses the written contracts to inform them about her childminding practice.

Some children are taken out into the local diverse community on an occasional basis. However, they do not have regular opportunities to increase their awareness of diversity and equality, as the childminder does not plan or provide sufficient resources or activities which enable them to gain an awareness of others.

Children play alongside one another in a calm manner, and are beginning to understand how to share toys and to show care and consideration for one another. They are reminded how to use toys safely, and respond well to the childminder when there are changes in routine.

Children with special needs are not provided with an environment which fully includes them and encourages them to make progress. Although the childminder is able to provide children with routines which are consistent with those they receive at home, she has not obtained sufficient information or advice to enable her to offer appropriate support and activities for children who have additional needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder maintains most of the required documentation that contributes to the care of children. For example, contracts are used to invite discussions with parents about their child's needs and routines and to make parents aware of the service provided. The home is well maintained, clean and offers a safe environment for children to play.

Children are supervised well and the childminder has organised the ground floor area of her home well, so that children have space to play freely and safely. However, not enough is done to ensure that children have a range of age appropriate activities and experiences to promote their all round development. Overall, the childminder does not meet the needs of the range children for whom she provides a service.

Improvements since the last inspection

One action and five recommendations were made at the last inspection. The childminder has improved safety within the home by providing safety film on some low level glass, and making the glass coffee table inaccessible to minded children. She has also re-organised rooms within the home, so that children are more closely supervised when they are sleeping. The flooring in the kitchen has been replaced and appropriate car insurance has been provided. The childminder has obtained a first aid box, and has sought written permission from parents to administer medication.

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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- improve record keeping to ensure that parents provide the necessary written consents for emergency medical treatment and all medication administered to children is recorded and shared with parents
- ensure that first aid training is undertaken
- plan and provide a greater range of toys and activities, both within the home and outside of the home, so that children are fully encouraged to make progress in all areas of their development, and provide regular opportunities to enhance children's physical development
- ensure that children's differing abilities and individual needs are taken fully into account, so that they are provided with activities and good levels of support to enable them to make appropriate progress, and are fully included at 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.

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