

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY360948
Inspection date	31 July 2008
Inspector	Alison Romanczuk

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 2007. She lives with her husband and two school aged children in the London Borough of Southwark. The whole ground floor and one bedroom of the childminder's house are used for childminding and children are taken to the park for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for no more than three children under eight years old; of these, not more than one may be under one year old at any one time. There are currently two children on roll. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group and takes children to the library and the shops. The childminder is of Ghanaian background and is qualified to NVQ level 3 in childcare.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is well supported because the childminder teaches them good hygiene habits from an early age. Nappies are changed regularly and the children are encouraged to

wash their hands when they come in from the garden. The environment, which is clean and well maintained, ensures children can move around and access their toys. There are regular trips out to local parks and playgrounds to enable the children to benefit from fresh air and exercise. Clear medication procedures are in place and ensure children are well cared for if unwell. Parents' consent is obtained to ensure practice is consistent with their wishes. Children receive regular healthy snacks. Water and juice are provided, particularly in hot weather. The childminder displays posters to promote healthy eating. Babies benefit from a gradual weaning programme. Children's individual dietary needs are well met because the childminder discusses these with parents and records any allergies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is well maintained. The childminder demonstrates a sensible approach to supervising the children in her care. Equipment is of a good standard and well organised and the furniture and environment are safe for the children to use. The childminder has clearly identified hazards in the balcony area and stairway but has not yet recorded these concerns to support her practice. Despite this, safety gates are used to protect the children from stairs, and plug sockets are covered in each room to prevent harm to crawling babies. Children are protected from fire hazards because the childminder regularly practices her escape route and has equipment, such as a fire blanket and smoke alarms, in place. Children are safeguarded from harm because the childminder has trained in child protection and has clear procedures in place to address any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy being with the childminder and are happy and settled in the environment. They show confidence in accessing their toys and equipment and often help the childminder to tidy away toys and choose new ones. Good levels of communication between the childminder and children attending ensure children's vocabulary is well supported and the childminder currently supports one child's home language also. Good relationships are established and the children able to interact well with the childminder's own children and feel included as part of her family. Children enjoy a range of activities, including art and craft, pretend play and sharing the childminder's good range of books. Children count the stairs as they walk upstairs and enjoy and giggle when given cuddles and kisses from the childminder. They benefit from the childminder's training and knowledge in play and from her experience as a mother of four children. Children's play is well supported through additional visits to local playgroups and parks.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children thrive in an environment where the childminder promotes equality and diversity. Resources support children's growing knowledge of difference in culture, gender and disabilities and reflect a range of backgrounds. The childminder gets to know the children and their families well, establishing supportive relationships to help the children settle. Those children who may have other languages are well supported and in particular a currently minded child who speaks the same Ghanaian language as the childminder is offered both her home language and English. Children behave well when with the childminder, who offers praise and encouragement for

good conduct and uses distraction as a useful strategy to encourage their good behaviour. Good working relationships with parents help the childminder to ensure she meets parents' wishes and provides consistency of care for the children attending.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being with a childminder who is well organised and committed to providing good quality childcare for the children attending. Regular training is accessed and the childminder has recently completed her NVQ level 3 in childcare. She has an up-to-date first aid certificate and clear notices show parents her registration certificate and insurance details. Children are well supervised. The childminder understands the need to ensure adults in contact with the children are suitably vetted. Clearly planned routines ensure children have a variety of experiences both at home and outside and the children enjoy being with the childminder. Documentation is well used to underpin her business and the childminder has secure records relating to children's personal details, registration and consent forms. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable: this is the first inspection since registration.

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 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):

- provide a secure assessment of hazards which may occur around the premises to ensure children's safety at all times

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