



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	139827
Inspection date	18 October 2005
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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1998. She co child minds with her mother from the same address.

The childminder lives with her parents, brother and five year old daughter. The family live in a house in a residential area of Wallington, close to shops, schools and parks. The ground floor of the home is the main area used for childminding. The garden is not used, but children are regularly taken to local parks. The family have a cat.

The childminder is a member of the local childminding association. She is registered

to care for three children and is currently minding one child on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well-organised home. They learn and understand about the importance of good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands after using the toilet, which reduces the risk of cross contamination. Children benefit from a range of healthy meals and snacks that ensure their dietary needs are met throughout the day. Although the back garden is not used, children can still enjoy activities that contribute to their good health and physical development, such as playing on a small slide and trampoline, and regular opportunities for fresh air and exercise at the local park.

The childminder has a current first aid certificate and a full understanding of the correct procedures to be followed for recording accidents and medication. Children's health is well supported as the childminder gives high priority to children's wellbeing by building secure relationships and taking detailed information about the child's individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to move freely and safely around the home because the childminder takes effective steps to reduce potential hazards. Children have access to a good range of resources and play materials, which the childminder ensures are suitable for their stage of development so they can play safely. The childminder gives priority to maintaining children's safety, for example, by regularly checking the toys and equipment they play with.

Children learn about the importance of staying safe by holding hands whilst on outings to avoid the risk of accidents. However, they have not yet had the opportunity to practise a fire drill to ensure they are familiar with what happens in the event of any emergency.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident in the setting. They choose from a varied range of developmentally appropriate resources which enable them to make good individual progress. They eagerly play with their chosen activity, such as dressing up, music and drawing. Children's work and achievements are valued through the childminder displaying their creations in the playroom.

Children respond well to the childminders positive interactions which help them to develop their language and social skills. They receive strong support and encouragement in their chosen activity. Children develop a good sense of achievement through the childminder being actively involved in their play and introducing new ideas and concepts.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and their individual needs are met because the childminder spends time getting to know them well. The childminder works closely with the parents to identify the children's routines and individual needs to ensure they settle well and experience consistent care.

Children behave well because of the positive methods used to manage their behaviour. They feel secure because clear boundaries and simple rules are in place. The childminder's good use of praise and encouragement builds children's self-esteem. All children have access to the full range of activities offered and the childminder positively promotes children's awareness of the wider world through discussion.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised environment, which helps them gain confidence and independence. Children's needs are effectively met because of the good relationships and communication systems set up with the parents. Parents are consistently informed about their child's day and the care provided. Documentation is well-maintained and kept confidentially. Overall, 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 information concerning child protection procedures. Relevant information has been acquired and the childminder shows clear understanding of her role and responsibilities with regard to protecting children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- implement a system where fire drills are practiced with minded children.

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