



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	140107
Inspection date	30 November 2005
Inspector	Angela Ramsey

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 1993. She lives with her two children. They live in a first floor maisonette situated in the London borough of Lambeth. The premises comprise of three bedrooms and a toilet on the first floor and living room, kitchen and bathroom on the ground floor.

Minded children have access to the living room, bathroom and toilet. There is a communal outdoor play area.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children aged under 8 at any one time and is currently caring for 3 children aged under 8 years and 3 aged 8 years. The family have no pets.

The childminder regularly attends childminding groups and is not registered to provide overnight care.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable home. Children learn about the importance of good hygiene practices through their daily routine, such as washing their hands after visiting the toilet and after playing in the park as this reduces the risk of spreading germs. The childminder maintains a good standard of cleanliness in her home. When changing nappies the childminder uses a changing mat for babies to lay on and ensures that soiled nappies are wrapped and disposed of appropriately. The childminder then washes her hands to reduce the risk of cross infection.

Children take part in a range of activities that contribute to their good health and physical development, such as playing outdoors in local parks and the childminder also takes the children to local childminding groups. The children's physical care needs are well catered for and the childminder ensures children's individual needs are met.

The childminder keeps records of children's individual care needs. This ensures children's health needs are met. Record books are available to record any accidents or incidents that may occur. This ensures information can be effectively shared with parents and other agencies if required. However written parental consent is not sought regarding emergency treatment and the contents of the childminder's first aid box are insufficient.

Children benefit from nutritious meals and snacks that the childminder prepares. The childminder ensures that children's dietary needs are met throughout the day. If parents provide meals these are appropriately stored and heated through thoroughly. Children are encouraged to make healthy choices at snack time with choices of a selection of fruit. The childminder provides freshly prepared meals including fresh vegetables, which contributes to children's good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in an environment where some risks are identified. Stair gates are in place, the gas fire is guarded and smoke alarms are fitted. However there is a trailing flex which poses a danger and the childminder has not devised an emergency evacuation procedure. This means the childminder has not thought out a fire escape procedure, and therefore children are unfamiliar with the procedures should an

emergency arise.

Children play with a suitable range of toys and play materials that are clean, safe, independently accessible and age appropriate.

The childminder does not have a secure understanding of child protection issues, which compromises children's welfare. The Area Child Protection Committee Procedures are not available with details of who to contact should she have any concerns. This could have an impact on children's well being and safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and settled and make themselves at home. Children relate well to the childminder because she joins in with their play and is very positive in her interaction. The children enjoy the close contact with the childminder and respond well to her encouragement. Children are able to experience a wide range of activities both inside and outside of the home, this contributes to their overall development.

Children experience a varied range of activities which meet their developmental needs. Resources are age appropriate and accessible. Children confidently initiate their own activities and enjoy playing with the toys available. The childminder provides a variety of cause and effect toys for younger children. These are brightly coloured and play melodies which stimulates young children through sight and sound. Older children are offered games, dressing up clothes, puzzles and creative activities. This contributes to their creative development and promotes their imagination. Children are able to relate to each other and when the childminder takes the children to childminding groups, they are able to socialise with their peers which enhances children's social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and treated as individuals. Their needs are met well through their daily routine as discussed with parents. Children's achievements are praised and encouraged which helps to build their self esteem. Children are encouraged to share and take turns when playing.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards equality issues and is aware of the importance of children having access to multicultural resources. The childminder has had experience of caring for children with special educational needs. The childminder has correctly identified that she would benefit from training in this area.

The childminder has developed good relationships with parents and communicates daily ensuring that the children in her care receive the best care. The childminder treats children and their parents with equal concern and the childminder has regard for those of different backgrounds. The childminder has some resources available that promote positive images of culture and gender.

Children behave well because of the childminder's realistic expectations. Her good use of praise and encouragement helps build children's self esteem and self control. If misunderstandings occur between the children, the childminder deals with these appropriately, ensuring that children respect each other. Therefore, children learn to be kind to each other through the childminder's good example and positive interaction. The children show independence, for example, when they select toys and play materials and help tidy up.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a generally well organised environment in which they feel at home and at ease, which helps them gain confidence and independence. The childminder is aware of the children's individual needs and interests and she provides appropriate play opportunities, which enable children to achieve their developmental milestones.

However the childminder does not have up to date public liability insurance, neither has she obtained signed permission from parents for seeking emergency advice or treatment. Also the childminder has not updated her first aid training and she has limited understanding of child protection procedures. Not all members of the family have had the appropriate checks carried out. All of which have an impact on children's wellbeing, resulting in children not being fully protected.

As a result of these issues the childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last Children Act inspection required that the childminder improve documentation by keeping a written record of medicines administered to children, signed by parents. The childminder was also required to keep appropriate signed consent forms and child detail records. There were also a number of recommendations to be considered, including the provision of resources that reflect positive images of culture, disability and gender and ensuring that toys are regularly checked for any that may be broken or damaged. It was also recommended that resources are organised to encourage children to self select and make choices and that the premises are made secure to prevent children leaving unsupervised.

The childminder has made improvements which impact on children's safety. Written records, signed by parents, of medicines administered to children and child detail records are now kept. Resources which reflect positive images of culture and gender are available and the childminder has a positive attitude to inclusion. Broken toys are now thrown away and resources are organised to encourage children to self select and make choices. Premises are secure to prevent children from leaving the premises unattended. However the requirement to keep appropriate signed consent forms remains outstanding.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- take positive steps to promote children's safety by ensuring public liability insurance is in place, trailing flexes are safe and emergency evacuation plans are devised and practised.
- increase knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures and obtain contact numbers of local Social Services Department.
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children.
- ensure that childminders daughter completes appropriate background check forms.

These actions are set out in a **notice of action to improve** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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