



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY282530
Inspection date	13 December 2005
Inspector	Catherine Greenwood

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 satisfactory. 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 2005. She is currently minding 1 child aged 13 months. She lives with her son aged 13 years. They live in a maisonette on the first and second floors of a flat in a terraced house. The home is near to Wandsworth Common and Balham station and the open spaces of the common.

The childminder takes children to local toddler groups and the library and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from going on daily outings to the local common where they develop physical skills. The childminder discusses food provision with parents, which means that children are given healthy food that they like, but do not have a great variety and are not encouraged to try unfamiliar fruit or vegetables. Children help themselves to accessible drinks throughout the day. Children are protected from cross infection because the childminder follows good hygiene practices, for example, when changing babies nappies and preparing their bottles. The childminder has a clear sick child policy which she shares with parents. This means that children are protected from the risk of infectious illness. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe within the home because the childminder checks all rooms used for childminding for potential risks. They are kept safe on outings because with parental consent the childminder uses reins to prevent younger children from running away. She encourages younger children to press the 'wait button' when crossing the road which means they are beginning to learn about their own safety. Children have access to safe play equipment because the childminder checks the toys and makes sure they are well maintained and suitable for the age of the children. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a knowledge of the reporting and recording procedures for child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and relaxed in the childminders home. Younger children enjoy playing with the response toys, concentrate well and know how to use the play equipment successfully. They are beginning to learn to count, for example, when going up and down the stairs. Children like to sing nursery rhymes with the childminder and are beginning to join in and learn to clap in time to music. They develop independence within their play and at mealtimes, for example, when learning to feed themselves. Although children benefit from going to playgroup once a week, they do have access to a wide variety of play equipment and books at the childminders home and the television is on for most of the time. Consequently, children's play is repetitive and the toys do not present sufficient challenge. The childminder does not use the Birth to three matters framework to adapt activities which means that children have a limited range of experiences. There is not enough play equipment for older children that will help them to develop to their full potential in all areas of development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled because the childminder develops very close and affectionate relationship with children and gives them lots of cuddles. Children feel relaxed and at ease in her care because she shares her attention equally, and helps them to form positive relationships with each other. For example, when a new baby comes to visit. Children are very happy and content because the childminder makes sure they are occupied and gives them lots of reassurance. Children benefit from the good relationships which the childminder establishes with parents and the information exchanged about children's individual needs and routines. Parents are very warmly welcomed into the childminders home and feel comfortable to stay and settle their children. Children are well behaved because the childminder helps them to understand right from wrong, and praises them for good behaviour and things that they achieve. Children do not increase their awareness of diversity and their understanding of others, because the childminder does not provide any activities or resources which reflect positive images of different cultures, beliefs and disability. The childminder is happy to look after children with special needs and work closely with parents and other agencies to meet children's individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home and at ease in the welcoming environment. However, the premises are not well organised and the main play area has large furniture and equipment such as a buggy and travel cot. This means that children do not have sufficient space to play and move around freely or have a separate sleeping area. There is insufficient large equipment, such as a high chair, which means that children sit on the floor at mealtimes. Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. They are shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the child's care. However, the childminder does not have a record of the children's attendance or necessary child protection documentation. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints 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. There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- organise the sitting room so there is more available space for children to move around and play, obtain necessary large equipment to meet children's individual needs, keep a record of children's attendance, and obtain written child protection documentation.
- develop knowledge of birth to three matters, make a wider range of age appropriate toys and books accessible to the children and review the use of the television during childminding hours.
- ensure children have access to a range of resources that reflect positive images of race, culture and disability.

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