



## Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 122931        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 19 June 2006  |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Mauvene Burke |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Childcare     |
| <b>Type of care</b>            | 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](http://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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

### 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 one adult daughter.

The ground floor of the property is used for childminding, consisting of a kitchen/diner, shower room, rear reception room and front sitting room. The sitting room 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 four children under eight years; of these, not more than three may be under five years, and of these, not more than one may be under one

year. The childminder currently cares for two children aged eight months and two years of age, both of whom were present during the inspection.

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 are experiencing some poor hygiene practices at the childminder's home. These are exposing them to the spread of infection and do not help to teach the children about staying healthy. For example, the childminder does not always wash her hands before feeding the children and children are not encouraged to wash theirs before eating. Systems regarding nappy changing are satisfactory.

Children's welfare is maintained because the childminder has the required documentation in place regarding accidents and the administration of medication. She works closely with parents to ensure they are aware of her policy regarding sick children and the administration of medication. She also has written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Children's welfare is further promoted because the childminder has a valid first aid certificate enabling her to provide treatment in a medical emergency.

Children enjoy healthy meals that are provided for them by their parent and healthy snacks such as fruits which the childminder provides. Children are not given any fresh drinking water during the day, but they do have milk or juice, which they have with their lunch and which is provided by their parents.

Children benefit from regular fresh air and exercise as the childminder takes them out daily. They are taken to local play groups where they are able to develop their physical skills as they have access to climbing frames, swings, balls and space to run around.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have adequate space available to them in the dining room which is where they spend the majority of their time when they are indoors. This enables them to move around freely and safely. Although the childminder has working smoke alarms, a fire blanket in her kitchen and safety gates fitted, she does not have in place a safe fire evacuation procedure. Children's welfare is not sufficiently safeguarded as the childminder does not have a secure understanding of child protection issues.

Children have sufficient toys to choose from, these are safe and in good condition and organised in a way which enables children to access them easily and make their own choices.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is inadequate.

The environment in which children are cared for does not provide them with enough opportunities to be creative; build on their natural curiosity as learners; or help to develop their language or use their imagination. This is mainly because of the childminder's weak knowledge of child development and lack of understanding about how children learn through their play. Children's language is not being encouraged because the childminder speaks very little to them and when she does, it is usually in a directive manner for example, "no", "don't do that", "come and sit here", "play with something else". Babies do not have a sense of belonging as the childminder offers little cuddles or eye-contact, for example, the baby is given his milk whilst seated in a car seat. Children do however, have opportunities to interact with other children in a group setting as the childminder uses playgroups on a regular basis.

## **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.

Children behave well, but the childminder often sends out inappropriate and negative messages, for example, she says, "no" and "don't do that", when children are engaging in everyday play and not necessarily projecting unacceptable behaviour, for example, rocking the baby or undressing a doll. Children become confused and lose their confidence as they are not given any explanations.

Children are beginning to learn about and value differences with the help of the resources that the childminder provides. The childminder shares information about her religion with the minded children and encourages parents to do the same with her for the benefit of all the children attending.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The home is well maintained, clean and offers a safe environment for children to play. Children are able to move around safely and securely because the childminder has minimised potential hazards. The care that the childminder offers to minded children is basic, for example, their needs around feeding and nappy changes are met appropriately and they are kept clean and tidy. She also works well with parents and has the appropriate documentation in place for her childminding business and has undertaken training in first aid and Birth to three. However, the childminder does not plan activities in a meaningful way and as a result, children are not being stimulated or given guidance or encouragement to boost their confidence or strengthen their learning skills.

The childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection, the childminder has taken some steps to improve the service she provides for children. She was asked to attend a first aid training course and to improve record keeping by ensuring that parents provide consent for her to seek medical treatment and advice and all medication administered. The childminder has since attended a first aid course which has given her the appropriate skills to administer first aid in an emergency. Parents are now clear about the procedures for the administration of medication as the childminder has decided that she will not administer, but has permission to seek emergency treatment and advice. This improvement helps to promote the welfare of children.

The childminder was asked to plan and provide a greater range of toys and activities in order to fully encourage children to make progress in all areas of their development. Although the childminder has provided minded children with a wider range of toys which include outdoor play equipment, the environment is not one in which children can thrive and develop skills. This is because the childminder does not help children to learn through their play.

### **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.

## **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

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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:

- plan a suitable range of activities for children, which are appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs as explained in Birth to three matters and develop your understanding of how children learn through their play
- ensure children have daily access to fresh drinking water
- develop your knowledge of child protection issues and procedures
- improve hand washing procedures and ensure children are aware of the importance of keeping themselves healthy

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 *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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)