



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	122797
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 November 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Linda Close
<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 good. 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 1990. She lives with her husband and two grown up children. They live in a three bedroom terraced house in the Southfield's area of southwest London. The local authority is the London Borough of Wandsworth. There are two local parks within walking distance. The ground floor only is used for childminding, and children have access to the sitting room, kitchen and downstairs cloakroom. An enclosed garden at the rear of the house is available for outdoor play. The childminder attends local carer and toddler groups and the local library on a regular basis. The childminder is currently caring for 4 children under 5 years, three of whom attend on a part-time basis. She is a member of the Wandsworth

Childminding Association. She has completed an NVQ level three in childcare.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are protected from the unnecessary spread of infection because the childminder agrees with parents at registration that the children should remain at home if they are unwell. Children are cared for in clean surroundings. They learn good routines for hygiene including washing their hands before meals. Children take plenty of healthy exercise at their regular playgroup visits. In warm weather they play outside in the garden. The children have sufficient space to play in the lounge where they also enjoy crawling through a play tunnel.

Children are given frequent drinks of water or fruit juice provided by their parents. Parents are consulted about their children's dietary needs at registration. The childminder is well informed about healthy eating. She creates weekly menus which she displays in her kitchen. She provides a good range of tasty meals and healthy snacks which include fresh fruit and vegetables.

Children are cared for appropriately if they have an accident. The childminder has kept her first aid training up to date. She records details of accidents and shares them with parents who sign to acknowledge that they have been informed. Medication is stored appropriately and only administered if parents give written instructions which are noted and signed in a medication record book.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure home environment where they have sufficient space for play and rest. They have easy access to a good selection of toys, books and resources that are suited to their ages and stages of development. Children's toys are clean, safe and attractive.

Children's welfare is safeguarded well in relation to child protection issues because the childminder has kept her training up to date and she is well informed. She would recognise possible signs or symptoms that could suggest ill-treatment and take appropriate steps if she has any concerns.

In most respects the children are safe in the childminder's home because she has assessed risks and taken steps to minimise them. For example, she has placed gates to prevent children from accessing the kitchen and staircase. Sharp or heavy objects are made inaccessible to children. However, one aspect of children's safety has been overlooked. The laminated flooring in the lounge and hall is smooth and children are likely to slip if running about in socks or tights.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the enjoyment of worthwhile play opportunities at the childminder's home supplemented by regular visits to local playgroups and to the library for singing and music-making. The children can make independent choices because the childminder has placed toys in containers on the floor where they can reach them easily. They were observed playing very imaginative games together with play food and plastic crockery. They also have opportunities to use fit-in puzzles and to play with early construction toys. The childminder provides toys that suit boys and girls and she encourages them to choose freely without gender bias.

The children enjoy painting, drawing and play dough and they can draw and make marks with coloured pencils and felt tips. They enjoy selected television programmes from time to time. Children's speech and understanding is developing well because the childminder devotes her full attention to them. She talks with them as they play and helps them to recognise colours and to count out loud. Very young children are stimulated well. They respond to the childminder's voice and they reach out for stimulating toys that she puts within their reach.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children benefit from appropriate continuity of care because their parents share details of their individual needs with the childminder at registration and the childminder knows the children well. The childminder shares some details of the children's day with their parents although no notes are made. A written list of possible activities, together with menus for each week, keeps parents suitably informed.

Children respond well to the childminder's patient but firm approach to behaviour management. She encourages the children to share their toys and distracts them successfully with other playthings or activities if they disagree. The children are settled and content in the childminder's care. They become accustomed to meeting a broad range of people at the playgroup and at the library. They learn more about the people and places in the wider world. They also play with books and toys that reflect different people including those with a disability.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Most members of the family were checked for suitability at registration. One suitability check is outstanding for a teenage member of the family and the childminder has already taken steps to rectify this. Another registered childminder who lives nearby has agreed to provide emergency cover if needed which shows good foresight. The childminder has arranged her home and resources to give children space to play in comfort. Most steps have been taken to keep children safe and secure in the home.

The childminder has an active approach to attendance at further training which enables her to keep abreast of developments in childcare. She is aware of a new requirement to keep a record of complaints should any be received and she has already identified a suitable format. All documents and records are kept correctly and this contributes to the safe and effective management of children's care. In addition the childminder has devised a suitable written fire evacuation procedure and she has prepared notes about her responsibilities concerning child protection matters to share with parents. The setting meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to two recommendations for improvement. She agreed to adopt a system of recording any significant incidents relating to children's behaviour. This record is now in place and provides pertinent information for parents. The childminder agreed to obtain resources and books that reflect positive images or a range of people including people with a disability. She has obtained a suitable range of books and toys that help children to understand the range of people in our society. The childminder plans to continue to extend her range of books and resources in the future.

### **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 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):

- ensure that children wear appropriate footwear indoors to prevent slipping on smooth floor surfaces

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