



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY232762
<b>Inspection date</b>	11 January 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Sandra Patricia Jeffrey
<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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged 12 and 15 years in a bungalow situated in Bromley. They live in a quiet residential area, within walking distance of schools and parks, a bus route and railway station.

All areas of the bungalow are accessible to minded children, although access to the children's bedroom is at the discretion of the children of the household. There is a secure garden available for outside play.

At the time of the inspection the childminder was registered to care for a maximum of three children under eight at any one time and was minding six children, five of whom attended on a part-time basis. As part of the inspection process an increase was agreed allowing the childminder to care for a maximum of four children aged under eight years at any one time.

The family has a dog, a cat and three goldfish.

The childminder has a recognised childcare qualification and a First Aid qualification. The childminder is a member of the Bromley Childminding Association, is a support childminder and is a member of local care and special needs networks.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are looked after in a warm and clean environment. From an early age, young children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through effective daily routines such as washing their hands before and after meals and after visiting the toilet.

The procedures in place for administering medication to children are effective and the childminder holds a valid first aid certificate, this safeguards children's health and welfare. The childminder has clear and effective policies in relation to the family pets and minded children do not have contact with pet food or the dog's exercise area in the garden. This promotes children's health and safety.

The children enjoy a good range of healthy home cooked meals and snacks including daily fresh fruit. The childminder sits at the table with the children and talks to them about the benefits of eating a 'nice warm breakfast to help them grow really big' for example. This helps them recognise foods that are good for them and to develop good eating habits. The childminder respects parental wishes and has a good understanding of individual dietary requirements; this ensures that the food meets the children's individual dietary needs. Fresh drinking water is available at all times to ensure children do not become thirsty or dehydrated.

The childminder uses the Birth to three matters framework to support young children's development so they learn to control their own body, gaining physical skills appropriate to their stage of development. This contributes to the children's physical well-being.

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

The provision is good.

Young children play and learn in a secure environment where they can move around safely. They have easy and safe access to toys and resources that are carefully selected to ensure they are suitable for children. Children can independently select from this range of toys, which gives them freedom of choice.

Good routines and gentle reminders help children learn about safety within the setting. Young children also benefit from a good range of safety measures, for example, socket covers are in place, a secure safety gate is in place preventing unsupervised access to the kitchen and a secure outdoor play area is provided.

Emergency contact information is carried when the children are out with the childminder. This was discussed with the childminder who is aware that these details must not identify minded children to unvetted and/or unknown adults.

Children practise the emergency evacuation procedures with the childminder on a regular basis. This helps children become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and knows how to proceed if she has concerns about a child in her care, in line with the latest government guidance. This supports children's wellbeing.

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

The provision is good.

Young children are happy and confident in the childminder's home. The childminder ensures she has good knowledge of the children she cares for and has a routine, which enables young children to feel secure and comfortable.

Children make themselves at home and have a warm and secure relationship with the childminder. Young children receive lots of affection from her and they respond well to the attention given to them.

Many activities are planned in advance and the children can also choose other toys and resources that are easily accessible. Young children enjoy and learn from a wide range of activities that allow them to explore and investigate. For example, with activities based on the Outdoor Creativity course recently attended by the childminder. They are interested in the activities available to them and spend time concentrating on these activities. For example, when playing with the matching and flash cards.

A good balance of indoor and outdoor activities and visits to other environments helps young children to make progress in all areas of learning.

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

The provision is good.

Children are treated with respect and receive praise and encouragement to promote their self-esteem. This contributes to the children's sense of well-being. The childminder has not cared for minded children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities but displayed a positive attitude to caring for such children.

Children become aware of some other cultures through a range of resources and activities. The childminder has a positive attitude towards diversity and this encourages children to develop a greater understanding of the community they live in and the wider world. Appropriate strategies, according to the age and stage of development, help children understand right from wrong. Certificates of achievement are given to the children in respect of good behaviour, good sharing and good reading and writing for example. This acknowledges children's achievements and gives them a sense of pride.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents provide relevant information about their children to the childminder. This helps to ensure children receive individual care and attention.

Regular informal discussions and the use of daily records for young children ensure continuity of care.

The childminder is aware of recent changes in legal requirements in relation to complaints and investigations and is aware that she is to make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to follow if they have a complaint.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The premises layout is appropriately organised to allow young children to play freely. Young children benefit from a well-organised environment where they receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident. The day is well-planned allowing children time for quiet and active play. The childminder uses her time well and her flexible approach allows children the opportunity to organise and pursue their own activities.

Comprehensive policies and procedures guide the childminder in her daily practice. This ensures children's needs are met and all relevant information is shared with parents. Information kept about children is relevant and helps promote their welfare. A good two-way flow of information ensures continuity of care for young children.

All mandatory records are in place, confidential and very well maintained. This ensures the safe and effective organisation of the setting in order to promote children's welfare. The childminder attends numerous training courses and workshops to extend and expand her childcare knowledge. This ensures she is able to care to a good standard for the children she looks after.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

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

During the previous inspection recommendations were set in relation to obtaining written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment for the children and to transport children in a vehicle on outings. These issues have now been rectified and the required written parental permission is in place, therefore ensuring that the parents' wishes are met at all times.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. 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 emergency contact details can not identify minded children to unvetted/unknown adults

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)