



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY284873
Inspection date	24 January 2007
Inspector	Linda Margaret Nicholls
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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2004. She is registered for five children and is currently minding six, two of whom are full time. Overnight care is not provided.

The childminder lives with her husband and two sons aged eight and five in Belvedere, the London borough of Bexley. There are local preschools, schools, parks and a library within walking distance. The family have a rabbit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children develop a rounded and thorough understanding of personal health and hygiene habits through a variety of everyday experiences. The childminder encourages them to clean their

hands before eating food, after messy play and after using the toilet. The childminder praises children when they ask to use the potty and when they help her put clothes in the washing machine. She explains she will push the buttons later. Children know the childminder uses hygienic wipes and barrier gloves when nappy changing. They mirror the actions of the childminder with their dolls.

Children develop enthusiastic attitudes towards physical exercise. They skip, jump and hop 'like a bunny' around the room. They stretch out on the floor and attempt a head stand. Babies gain confidence to stand unaided and cruise items of furniture because the childminder praises them and allows them time to gain their balance. Children attend activity centres and toddler groups daily where they can run, play on soft foam shapes, in ball ponds or use wheeled toys. Children enjoy trips to local play parks and take exploring walks in the locality. Children know how to relax. They go to the childminder for hugs and cuddles, nap in the buggy after a milk drink or sit close to her while they share a book.

Children are offered a healthy balanced diet of home cooked meals, including fish pie, meatballs, lasagne and fresh fruits and vegetables. Breakfast is a social time where children can choose from cereal, toast, yogurt and milk or juice. A guide to eating healthily is displayed, menus are provided and for the younger children a record of food and drinks taken is noted in daily contact books. Fresh water is available throughout the day. Children know the colour of their own plate and beaker. They tuck into slices of banana they have chosen as their snack. Specific dietary information is recorded and individual requirements or family preferences are accommodated with ease.

Children's health is effectively protected because the childminder informs parents of her practice and procedures in an information pack. Children who have an infection do not attend which helps prevent the spread of contagious illness. The childminder maintains clear, current contact details and medical records. Signed consents are held. A first aid qualification is current and a first aid box is accessible at all times. Parents are informed of the emergency procedures should a child become ill or there be a serious accident requiring emergency treatment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children play safely in a secure, efficient, organised home. The home is well maintained with clean modern décor and good natural light. Floor space and play surfaces are uncluttered. Children naturally extend their play choosing from a selection of inviting toys and free standing equipment. They purposefully move favourite dolls from cots to changing mats in the living room. There is an abundant selection of high quality equipment for young and older children on easily accessible shelving in the adjoining playroom. The garden is neatly maintained, fenced and gated. Risks are identified, recorded and hazards minimised. Children's independence is encouraged with a child height table and bench seating provided for activities and meals.

Children cannot access rooms or items that could be dangerous. The kitchen is gated and cleaning liquids and powders are secured. Fire safety recommendations are in place and a member of the London Fire Brigade has visited the premises. An emergency exit plan is displayed. Parents are informed of the safety procedures including details of emergency cover by other

registered childminders. Children learn through daily routines to keep themselves safe. They are encouraged to tidy up toys from the floor so they don't trip over, to wipe their hands and to pick up books to keep them clean. The childminder uses appropriate car safety seating when transporting children and parents sign to give their consent to transport. Children learn how to keep themselves safe as they walk along the road because the childminder reinforces good road safety habits at all times.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder is confident she has a competent understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect. She discusses her professional role with parents at their initial meeting, provides a written procedure and displays posters with up-to-date contact numbers. Safeguarding Children training was undertaken in 2005.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are stimulated and self motivated as they learn because the childminder effectively plans and closely supports their play. They are demonstrably happy, settled and engaged because the childminder reflects and matches activities to their individual needs. Children are naturally self assured, confident and play effectively on their own or with others. The childminder enjoys playing with the children, giving them time to balance and encouraging their growing independence. She praises children when they attempt new sounds, 'b' for book or words such as 'plate,' and 'mine.' Children listen closely then repeat the word again. Children are learning to care for books, turning the boards slowly or pointing at detailed pictures of 'Teddy Bears Daring Rescue' with the childminder. Children are proud of their achievements. They smile as they hop like a 'bunny', or as they stand unaided. They point to one of a display of paper cut outs, saying 'mine'. They purposefully scoop pasta shapes with a spoon, one at a time, transferring them from a plate to a cup. With determined concentration they carefully carry the filled cup to the sofa, ensuring the pasta does not spill. They know the name of colours 'pink' and 'blue.' Children twist and turn wooden shapes to fit forms for a cylinder or a cube. They show imagination as they use the same wooden blocks to build a house for their doll to sit in. They mirror the childminder's nappy changing routine with their own doll, the doll's changing mat and a hygienic wipe.

Children develop social skills both inside and outside the home. They know to help others and to take care of things such as toys, books and babies. The childminder plans weekly visits to a variety of toddler clubs where they learn to share and take turns on equipment such as soft foam shapes or wheeled toys. Children explore differences and similarities as they meet others at a singing and signing Group. They experience a range of cultural and social events attending local multicultural festivals and listening to other languages. Children look at posters, toys and equipment which provide positive images of equality of opportunity. They softly pat the posters showing they care. Children are respected and praised often. Children have a strong sense of belonging because the childminder reminds them of when they went to gym club. They point to photographs and name other children they meet at the childminders. The childminder is aware of the Birth to three matters framework and is attending the Diploma in Home Based Childcare.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are encouraged to develop personal confidence and self respect. They are encouraged to feel good about themselves because the childminder has clear and positive attitudes towards physical and cultural diversity. She provides opportunities for children to hear other languages and music from other cultures. She provides regular opportunities for children to meet others at social venues throughout the year. Children visit friends, local clubs and the library. Posters are displayed at child height giving details of cultural festivals and showing a variety of faces and skin tones so that the youngest can reach to give them a friendly pat. All children have access to a wide range of equipment including role play items, books, and small world figures reflecting equality of opportunity. The childminder is aware of the supportive role she can offer to children with learning difficulties or physical disabilities. She is experienced in the care of children with hearing impairment, has used Makaton and goes to a singing and signing group. Children are caring and well behaved towards one another. They know to help the childminder who gives them hugs, cuddles and praise. They learn to share and take care because the childminder gives consistent and simple explanations for the behaviour she wants. There is a written statement of behaviour management and this is discussed with parents at first meeting.

Children benefit from consistency of care. The childminder works closely with parents and written agreements are reviewed regularly. Parents describe the childminder's home as 'a warm family orientated environment'. Other parents confirm their children 'adore' the childminder. Individual children's records are maintained in confidence. They include medical information and the names of adults identified to collect children. Parents are reassured of the care their child receives because signed consents are held and information is shared daily, both verbally and in contact books. The childminder displays posters and information linking activities to children's learning. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept well informed of all relevant policies and procedures including a current complaints record.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children show a natural self confidence. They are happily settled and absorbed in their play. They are lively, curious and motivated to learn because they are consistently well supported. The childminder provides high quality equipment in an exceptionally well organised play environment.

The management and organisation of the provision is comprehensively professional and proactive. The childminder monitors and appraises her service and reassures parents daily. Documents are meticulously maintained and transparent. First aid certification for children and babies is current and displayed with the registration certificate. A daily attendance record notes times of arrival, departure and the reasons for any absence. The childminder is aware to inform parents and the registering body of any changes to her circumstances that may affect the welfare of children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to recommendations to increase the range of books she provides for different age groups and to develop her knowledge of ways to present equality of opportunity in her provision. Children can choose from a wide range of books applicable to the whole age range of children minded. The childminder displays posters depicting positive images of other languages, cultures and physical diversity. She provides a wide range of toys, equipment and planned activities promoting equality of opportunity including music and cooking activities. Children increase their knowledge and understanding of different peoples and cultures.

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:

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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