

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	510741
Inspection date	11 September 2007
Inspector	Christine Jacqueline Davies
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.

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 was registered in 1995. She lives with her husband, who is also a registered childminder and her two daughters aged nine and 11 years. They live in a four bedroom house, in the London borough of Bromley. The whole of the premises is used for childminding and there is a large garden available for supervised outside play. The property is close to local schools, parks and transport services. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is able to care for a maximum of six children when working with another childminder. There are no children on roll. The family do not have any pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of how to minimise the risk of cross infection and promote children's good health. For example, she describes how children would wash their hands before eating meals and after using the toilet and how she ensures that she

cleans the premises on a daily basis. Through discussion, it was evident that the childminder has appropriate systems in place regarding accidents and medication records. Furthermore, her record keeping demonstrates that systems are in place to gather information about children's medical needs and to seek emergency medical treatment if necessary. The childminder has maintained a current first aid certificate and demonstrates a sound knowledge of first aid procedures.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of how to promote children's physical health. For example, she describes how children would have access to local amenities such as the park, as well as regular use of the garden, where they are able to participate in a range of games such as football, tennis and cricket. Furthermore, the childminder discussed how healthy eating would be promoted, by providing children with a range of healthy meals and snacks, as well as fresh drinking water throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Through discussion, the childminder described how she organises her home and understands her responsibility to maintain a safe environment for children in her care. She has taken actions to ensure that most risks inside her home have been minimised, so that children can play safely. However, alcohol stored in the dining room and the open fireplace in the living room, are easily accessible to children. Furthermore, the side gate in the garden has a low level lock fitted, which means that children can potentially leave the premises unsupervised. The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of appropriate equipment and resources to use with children and describes how she would check equipment for safety on a regular basis. The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how to safeguard children's welfare. For example, she is aware that any concerns should be recorded. However, she does not have access to current safeguarding procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of how children learn and describes how she provides children with a range of activities. For example, children would have access to resources such as books, puzzles, constructional activities and imaginative play resources, as well as regular visits to the local playgroup. In addition to this, she describes how she would encourage children's independence and choice by ensuring that toys and equipment are organised at the child's level. The childminder explained that she would provide a flexible routine, so that children's play is spontaneous as well as structured if appropriate. Through discussion, she demonstrates a clear understanding of the differing developmental needs of children and would promote their individual interests, so that they are happy and settled.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrated through discussion, how she would meet children's individual needs. For example, she describes how she would provide a flexible routine for children and would discuss their care needs with parents at the initial meeting. Furthermore, she emphasised the importance of working in partnership with parents and developing a positive relationship with them. She explained that parents would be informed about their child's care and progress

on a daily basis. She further explained her procedures for recording complaints made by parents. In addition to this, the childminder was able to describe how she would manage children's behaviour. For example, she would provide an explanation to children if any issues arose and would reward good behaviour with praise. The childminder demonstrated a sound understanding of how to promote diversity, through the use of resources such as books, puzzles and play people. Although there are no children attending with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, the childminder demonstrated via discussion that she has a sound understanding and sensitive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Through discussion, the childminder described the systems she has in place to promote the safety and well being of children in her care. She has ensured that all required documentation for recently minded children, are in place and is able to describe how she would meet the individual needs of children in her care. The premises are generally safe, and the childminder is able to describe how she would organise both indoor and outdoor space. However, the childminder has not fully ensured that safety precautions regarding the storage of alcohol, the open fire place located in the living room and the garden side gate, are in place. The childminder is keen to improve her knowledge and enhance her childcare practice. She emphasises the importance of attending up to date relevant courses. For example, the childminder has attended a course regarding allergies and the use of epi pens with young children. Overall, evidence suggests that the provision would meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous care inspection recommended that the provider complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children, obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children, provide evidence of building regulations for loft conversion and repair broken fence panel in garden.

Since the last inspection, the childminder has moved premises, so the recommendations regarding the broken fence panel in the garden and evidence of building regulations for the loft, are no longer applicable. The childminder has completed an appropriate first aid course that included training in first aid for infants and young children and records for previous minded children, contain permission from parents to administer medication.

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets 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 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 safety measures are in place regarding the storage of alcohol, the open fire place and side garden gate
- obtain up to date child protection guidelines in line with local safeguarding procedures

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