

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	136932
Inspection date	10 July 2007
Inspector	Elizabeth Ellen Mackey

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 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 June 1995. She lives with her husband and their three children aged 16,13, and six years. They live in a house in the London borough of Bromley.

The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight. She is currently minding three children of whom two attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

There is a good standard of hygiene maintained throughout the home and resources are clean and well maintained. Children are encouraged to develop good hygiene routines, for example washing their hands with soap, prior to mealtimes and after playing out in the garden. Children do not have their own flannels and towels which could pose a risk of cross infection.

Children's medical needs are discussed with parents and up-to-date records are maintained to ensure consistency of care, this benefits the children's well-being. The childminder holds an up to date first aid certificate and there is a clear sickness policy in place, to ensure that the children's health is well protected. The childminder has a written emergency medical procedure, including written consent from parents to seek emergency medical treatment. This ensures emergency procedures are agreed and implemented without delay.

Children are provided with healthy meals and snacks and regular drinks throughout the day. A healthy menu of home cooked food ensures they have healthy choices. A wide variety of fresh fruit and vegetables are included in meals and snacks. Children learn about healthy foods, through growing their own vegetables in the childminders garden and allotment. They dig them up to use for tea. Children sit together at the table and enjoy each others company at mealtimes, this helps to develop their social skills. Parents' preferences and children's allergies and dietary needs are discussed with parents at the onset of care, this ensures that the children's nutritional needs are well met. Children have daily opportunities for outdoor play, they walk to and from school and playschool and regularly play in the garden and visit the local park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a well organised home. Safety measures are in place to protect children from hazards. The childminder supervises children closely at all times and has implemented policies to underpin her safe practice, for example a health and safety policy and an outings policy.

The childminder has risk assessed her home in terms of fire safety and carries out routine fire drills with the children to ensure they are familiar with evacuation procedures. All hazardous materials are stored out of reach and the childminder ensures all equipment is safe and age appropriate.

Children's overall well-being is generally safeguarded because the childminder understands child protection procedures and her responsibility to safeguard children. However, the child protection policy in place states that all injuries sustained by children, whether they have occurred in the care of the childminder or not are recorded. In practice this does not happen, this weakens the policy because there is not clear accountability for all injuries that are sustained by children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder builds close, supportive relationships with the children in her care. Children are clearly confident with their carer and are very settled. They chatter constantly and seek her input, asking lots of questions. The childminder responds positively to this, both giving children answers and also encouraging them to think about what the answer could be.

The childminder plans appropriate activities for children and has successfully implemented the birth to three matters framework to aid in her planning and observation of children. She demonstrates a sound understanding of the framework. Activity plans include the children making pizza together to encourage their social development. The children enjoyed the activity and interact well with each other, talking about the toppings they were putting on their pizza.

Children experience a warm, consistent standard of care from the childminder who has a good awareness of their needs and development. The childminder is currently studying for a Foundation Degree in Early Years. As a result learning opportunities for the children are maximised, through everyday activities, because the childminder applies her new found knowledge of promoting children's learning. Children are able to self select resources from a wide range. They enjoy building with the large bricks and together with the childminder build a train track. Children's use of language is good and they are encouraged by the childminder to express themselves.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder understands the importance of ensuring children are treated equally. She demonstrates a positive attitude towards inclusion and states that she would access training if it was needed to help with children's care. The childminder observes children's developmental progress, this aids in identifying any delay in children's development. The childminder has a range of resources reflecting positive images of diversity and the wider world.

Children are welcomed and enjoy a child friendly environment. Children respond positively to the boundaries in place. They are acknowledged and affirmed and the childminder uses age appropriate strategies to discourage unwanted behaviour. Children are valued and have their individual needs met by the childminder who works closely with their parents. Written agreements are in place prior to children's placements beginning and information is sought from parents, such as their likes, dislikes and individual needs.

The childminder shares information daily so parents are aware of what their children have been doing throughout the day. A contact book for younger children is also shared with parents. An effective relationship with parents contributes to children's well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a high regard for the children in her care and is committed to continuously improving the provision she offers. For example, she skilfully uses the knowledge gained whilst studying for her degree to enhance the activities for the children. As a result, the quality of care and learning that children experience is subject to continual improvement.

Children benefit from the childminder's effective organisation. She organises her time, home and the resources, to ensure children's individual needs are catered for. For example children's individual routines are adhered to and activities are organised to fit in with them.

Most records and documents are well organised and used to support the care of the children and to comply with regulations. Policies and procedures are well thought out and are shared with parents. Agreements are used to identify children's individual needs, these are reviewed regularly. The childminder has a complaints procedure for parents, which has been updated to include a complaint log. The childminder meets the needs of the range of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to improve her records for attendance and medication. She now maintains these records in line with regulation. This improves children's safety by providing an accurate account of when children attend and of when medication has been administered in agreement with parents.

The childminder also agreed to increase her understanding of special educational needs. The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of providing an inclusive environment and aims to meet the individual needs of all the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the childminder or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The childminder 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):

- improve procedures to safeguard children and make a record of injuries sustained by children outside of your care
- reduce the risk of cross infection and provide children with their own towels

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