

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	128833
Inspection date	15 November 2007
Inspector	Pamela Patricia Paisley

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 was registered in 1994 and lives with her adult daughter in Forest Hill. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five years and four school aged children on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder makes sure that children have plenty of opportunities for physical play through well-planned indoor and outdoor activities. They practise climbing, throwing, kicking, catching and riding with a wide range of outdoor play equipment. Children walk to and from school on a daily basis which ensures they make good progress in their physical development. Children

eat healthy meals which the childminder prepares each day to make sure they benefit from fresh foods. They are offered fresh fruit and vegetables and water and fruit juice throughout the day.

Children are helped to understand that washing their hands before handling food and after meals helps keep them healthy. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of the requirements for administering first aid and all necessary medical and accident records are in place. She takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection by keeping the premises clean, safe handling of food and providing separate flannels for children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe as they practise road safety to and from school. Younger children are encouraged to hold on to the pushchair and older children hold each other's hands. The childminder talks to the children about emergency escape plans but has not practised it with them. The childminder's home is organised well so that children can play in a safe environment. Toys, play materials and equipment are well maintained. The childminder monitors resources to make sure that they are suitable for the varying age range of the children in her care.

There is effective safety equipment in place to ensure children's safety on the premises. Suitable safety devices, such as stair gates, socket covers, smoke alarms and a fire blanket, are fitted throughout the childminder's home to minimise potential hazards. The childminder has a good understanding of how to protect children, and recognises that this is her first priority. She is aware of the signs and symptoms of possible abuse and knows the appropriate procedures to follow should she have concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a calm environment where children are happy and relaxed. The childminder's home is organised so that children can help themselves to play materials and choose their own activities. As a result children are learning to be independent. Children play with a broad selection of toys, play materials and resources that promotes their development in all areas. Children have great fun dancing and listening to music and enjoy educational word and number games. They have good opportunities to express themselves through painting and arts and crafts and delight in playing with activity centres and trying to figure out how they work.

Children have a close trusting relationship with the childminder. Her relaxed approach helps them feel comfortable and secure. They benefit from being able to socialise with their peers at toddler groups and childminder drop-in centres. Children visit the library on a regular basis and enjoy a story time with the librarian. They are learning about living things and historical events through visits to the local museum.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children get good encouragement from the childminder to participate in activities provided. She meets their individual needs well, making sure that each child is treated with equal concern.

Good communication with parents helps the childminder to settle children quickly in her care. She makes sure that she has a good working relationship with teachers of children in her care who attend school so that she can support parents.

Children benefit from activities which help them to learn about the wider society. They celebrate festivals and various events throughout the year and play with a good selection of resources which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences. The childminder uses a sensitive approach to behaviour management taking children's stages of development into account. Good explanations and gentle reminders about being kind to one another encourages children to have regard for others. The childminder has a good partnership with parents. She ensures that they get daily feedback on their children's progress and well organised policies and procedures are shared and discussed with them.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her space and resources well within her home. Children are stimulated well which contributes to them making good progress in their learning. They receive good support to help them develop good self esteem and a sense of belonging. The childminder ensures that she keeps up to date with child care practices through attending relevant training courses to enhance her knowledge. She provides a valuable service for their parents by caring for their children according to their wishes.

The childminder has a full range of policies and procedures; they are regularly reviewed, updated and shared with parents. Most safety procedures are in place, although children do not practise fire drills. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended that the childminder ensure that her radiator temperature is monitored and she has a written policy on the exclusion of children who are sick. The childminder makes sure that all radiators are kept at a suitable temperature to safeguard children and now has a written policy in place to protect children from cross infection.

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 children practise regular fire drills

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