

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	136523
Inspection date	22 January 2008
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 1992. She lives with her husband and three adult children in Beckenham. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house and one bedroom on the second floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has a cat.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years and one school aged child. 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.

Children are protected from cross infections because the childminder has good procedures in place, including all necessary medication and accident records. Children's fine motor skills are being developed through cutting out pictures, using rolling pins and shape cutters with play

dough, paint brushes, pencils and crayons. They have good opportunities to walk to local parks and have fun at indoor adventure play areas.

Children are learning the importance of good hygiene practice through their daily routine. They help to wash the toys and the childminder makes sure that her own practice is seen by the children. Children enjoy fruits such as apples, oranges, pineapples, raisins for snacks. Meals are freshly cooked, home made and children's likes and dislikes taken into account. There is a varied menu so children have a chance to taste different foods and a good selection of cultural dishes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are becoming familiar with road safety when outings. The childminder encourages them to hold hands and reminds them about the dangers of speaking to strangers. The childminder helps children to learn how to keep themselves safe by reminding them about the dangers of jumping on furniture and putting things in their mouths. Children practise regular fire drills to help them develop awareness about fire safety.

Children play in a safe environment with resources organised effectively so they can move around safely. Appropriate safety equipment situated throughout the childminder's home means children are protected from potential dangers. The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection issues and understands her responsibility in reporting concerns she may have about children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder spends time talking and listening to the children and encourages them to talk about what they are doing, which promotes their language and gives them good self esteem. Children enjoy meeting up with friends of a similar age at toddler groups, the local library and parks. Children have great interest in looking at books and listening to stories told by the childminder. They are starting to name and recognise colours and everyday objects.

Children are relaxed and happy in the childminder's care. She is aware of their individual needs and meets them well. She plans and provides a wide and varied range of stimulating play and learning opportunities to promote children's development in all areas. Children enjoy taking part in activities that encourage them to be creative such as painting and drawing. They delight in dressing up, pretending to cook, make cups of tea and wash dolls.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have a good understanding of what is expected of them because the childminder has clear boundaries in place. They are taught to negotiate and say sorry if they upset each other which helps them to think about the feelings of others. The childminder ensures that she meets children's individual needs by finding out what activities they like doing and making them feel settled and comfortable in her care. The childminder has a clear understanding of providing for children's specific needs.

Children play with a broad range of resources that reflect positive images of culture, disability and gender. They are also helped to learn about the wider society through discussions with the

childminder and looking at books to find out about different cultures and beliefs, which increases their awareness of diversity. The childminder has a strong relationship with parents. She exchanges information on a daily basis about their children's day, including activities they took part in, meals they had and their developmental progress.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder provides a valuable service for parents taking into account their wishes for the care of their children, including taking them to and from school and nursery. The childminder has all necessary policies and procedures in place, including procedures for recording complaints; although parents have not been given the name and address of Ofsted if they wish to report a concern.

Children are cared for in an environment where their needs are effectively met by the childminder. She organises her home to give children a good variety of experiences to support their learning and help them to feel confident in initiating their own play. Children are interested in activities offered and enjoy their time with her. 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 keep records of children's individual needs; including any special dietary requirements and written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. The childminder has improved her record keeping and detailed information regarding children's individual needs are clearly documented, including all necessary written consents from parents.

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 parents are provided with full details of how to make a complaint to Ofsted

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