

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	136692
Inspection date	23 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 satisfactory. 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 1996. She lives with her two adult children and two children aged 14 and eight in Beckenham. The whole ground floor 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years on a part time basis and one school aged child. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder discusses children's dietary needs with parents at the start of a placement to make sure their individual needs are catered for. Children eat healthily throughout the day. They are offered fresh vegetables and fruit such as lettuce, cucumber, carrots, banana, grapes

and apples. There are appropriate systems in place to record medicines given to children; however, written parental consent for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment has not been sought.

The childminder makes sure that her home environment is clean. The risk of cross infections are reduced because she ensures that she wears gloves when changing nappies and the changing mat is wiped after every use. Children learn about good hygiene practice through the childminder encouraging them to wash their hands when they come in from school, before meals and after going to the toilet. Children walk to and from school on a daily basis which helps to keep them healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children practise road safety on their way to and from school which helps them learn how to cross roads safely. Although parental consent for outings is in place, written permission for taking children on transport has not been sought. Children play with suitable toys, play materials and equipment. The childminder supervises their choice of play materials to make sure they are safe for all the children in her care.

Children are encouraged by the childminder not to run indoors and climb on furniture, in order to keep themselves safe while playing. Children are cared for in a safe environment with sufficient safety devices such as socket covers, stair gates and cupboard locks fitted throughout the home. The childminder has appropriate procedures in place for emergency evacuation; although children do not practise fire drills to help them learn about fire safety. The childminder has adequate knowledge and understanding about how to safeguard children and what procedures to follow if she has any concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children go on regular outings to toddler groups, childminder drop in centres and local parks. They enjoy going on shopping trips to the local supermarket and going for walks. The childminder ensures that children enjoy their time with her and that they feel comfortable and confident to take part in the activities she provides.

Children are able to make their own choices about what activities they want to take part in which positively promotes their independence.

Children play with a wide and stimulating range of play materials that are attractively displayed at their level in the kitchen diner. The childminder knows the children well and provides activities that they enjoy and are suitable for their ages and stages of development. Children enjoy dancing, listening to music and singing songs. They have good opportunities to be creative through arts and crafts, colouring and painting and have good access to a wide variety of interesting books and role play materials.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to negotiate and take turns when playing. This helps them to think about the needs of others. They are treated as individuals and the childminder takes time to

find out about their home routines to help her meet their individual care needs. The childminder has a good partnership with parents. She has daily discussions with parents about their children's well being, activities they took part in and their day at school.

Children are encouraged to discuss their time at school, including their favourite lessons. As a result children are gaining good self esteem and a sense of belonging. Children begin to learn about the wider society through conversations with the childminder about different cultural beliefs. They have good access to a broad range of books, dolls and puzzles that reflect positive images.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Most policies and procedures that are required to promote the welfare and care of children are maintained; however, written parental consent for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and for taking children out on transport has not been sought. There is a system in place for recording complaints; although parents have not been provided with the name and address of Ofsted if they wish to report a concern.

Children are supervised in the childminder's home to keep them safe from persons who have not been vetted. The childminder organises her home so that the children can move around freely and feel secure; however, children do not practise regular 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 fencing in her garden is made safe; provide a range of play materials reflecting positive images of culture and disability and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. The childminder has improved the safety of her garden and all fencing is secure; children have access to resources that reflect positive images; however, written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment has not been sought. This will be made a recommendation of this inspection.

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.

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):

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and taking children on transport
- ensure parents are provided with accurate details of how to contact Ofsted in the event of a complaint
- 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