

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	136830
Inspection date	11 March 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 2001. She lives with her husband in Beckenham, Kent. The whole ground floor and one bedroom on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has one cat and goldfish.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She is currently minding three children under five years and one schoolchild. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder pays good attention to children's dietary needs. She is very aware of their likes and dislikes and tries to provide their favourite foods, as well as giving them meals that are healthy and well balanced. Children enjoy a wide range of meals, such as fish pie, sausage casserole, chicken stir fry, roast dinners and spaghetti bolognese. The childminder ensures that

fresh vegetables are served with every meal. Children are offered fresh fruit everyday and are able to help themselves to drinks throughout the day.

Children are learning the importance of good hygiene practice through their daily routine. They are encouraged to wash their hands after going to the bathroom, when they come back from an outing or have touched the family cat. Children go to the park, where they use slides, swings and the seesaw. They regularly walk to and from school and have access to outdoor play equipment in the childminder's garden. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of the requirements for administering first aid. All appropriate medical and accident records are in place, but parents' written permission for seeking emergency medical advice has not been sought.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play with a wide selection of good quality toys and play materials. The childminder makes sure that they are suitable for the different ages of the children she is caring for. Regular fire drills help children become aware of emergency evacuation procedures. Appropriate safety equipment, such as smoke alarms, a fire blanket and window locks, has been fitted, and fire equipment is checked on a regular basis to ensure it is in working order. Children are protected in the childminder's home because she makes sure that potential dangers are minimised.

The childminder supervises children playing outdoors and talks to them about the dangers of wandering off and talking to strangers when on outings or on the way to and from school. Children are learning to keep themselves safe as they practise road safety. The childminder has a very good understanding of child protection issues and knows how to proceed if she has concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of different types of play throughout the day. They do arts and crafts, build farms and safari parks with Lego, and use stickle bricks and other construction play materials to make models. Children have a great love for books and often sit quietly to look at them or enjoy stories told by the childminder. Children have great fun playing tambourines, castanets, xylophones and bells as they sing their favourite nursery rhymes. Children make regular trips to parks, toddler groups and the local library. They ride into town on the tram to visit friends, which enables them to enjoy the outdoors and socialise with their peers.

The childminder's home is well organised, so children feel happy and comfortable as they participate in activities. The activities provide challenges appropriate to their ages and stages of development. Children play with a wide variety of toys and play materials and enjoy making choices from the resources provided. The childminder plans activities in advance to make sure children have a broad range of stimulating play opportunities and experiences that promotes their all round development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children receive regular praise and encouragement for their achievements, which promotes their self-esteem. Children are well behaved and are learning to share and take turns when playing. The childminder sets realistic boundaries, taking children's ages and stages of development into account. The childminder knows the children in her care very well and positive relationships are built. Children are allowed to settle gradually in her care.

Children have opportunities to learn about diversity. They have discussions with the childminder about different events that take place during the year and learn about different cultures and festivals. Children play with toys and resources that reflect positive images of diversity, which helps to develop their respect for others. The childminder has a positive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and understands the importance of meeting their individual needs. The childminder has a strong partnership with parents, and shares information about the children's day with parents on a daily basis. Parents are kept up-to-date with the service the childminder provides.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

There are comprehensive policies and procedures in place which outline the service the childminder provides. Although there are procedures in place for recording complaints, parents have not been provided with contact details for the regulator. Parents' written permission for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment has not been sought.

Children receive good support, which helps them to feel confident and secure in the childminder's care. They are becoming more independent and very often initiate their own activities. The childminder organises her day to incorporate children's individual needs, including taking children to and from school. 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 improve the range of play resources reflecting positive images of ethnicity, religion, gender and disability and ensure that written guidelines for Area Child Protection Committee procedures are obtained.

The childminder has improved the range of resources that reflect positive images of ethnicity, religion, gender and disability and has obtained guidelines for Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

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):

- request written parental permission for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and ensure that parents are provided with accurate details of how to report 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