

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	136870
Inspection date	29 January 2008
Inspector	Elizabeth Anne Coffey

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?

This childminder has been registered to care for children since 1992.

She lives with her three adult children in a house in Beckenham, close to Kent House Station. Only the ground floor of the premises is used for childminding purposes. Children have access to a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under eight years and two children over eight years.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from regular exercise and fresh air. Children enjoy playing in the garden where they can run, ride wheeled toys and play ball games. Indoors, children eagerly push dolls buggies

and carefully negotiate the low steps between rooms helping to develop their coordination and body awareness. The childminder gently guides and supports the children in their attempts. For example, she quickly intervenes when she notices a child becoming frustrated at not being able to manoeuvre the buggy in the way she wants and helps her to steer the buggy in the correct manner. This increases children's confidence and encourages them to develop new skills.

There is a strong emphasis on healthy eating and children enjoy a balanced nutritious diet. This includes daily portions of fresh fruit and vegetables. The childminder takes great care to identify individual children's dietary needs and likes and dislikes. Children eat freshly prepared meals in a social setting at the table in the kitchen. Highchairs and booster seats are available which ensures that children of all ages can participate in mealtimes.

Good hygiene practices help to promote the health of children and minimise cross infection. There are suitable nappy changing, potty training and toileting facilities available and the childminder ensures that all bodily fluids are dealt with in a safe hygienic manner. Children learn the importance of personal hygiene as they are reminded to wash their hands before mealtimes and to cover their mouths when they cough.

There are appropriate record keeping systems in place for the recording of accidents and medication. A policy on sick children is shared with parents. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in an organised and well maintained environment. The rooms are comfortable and well equipped with a range of seating and soft furnishings which helps children feel relaxed and at home.

Children benefit from close adult supervision, as they independently select activities from a range of toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder takes care to ensure children play with toys that are suitable for their age and stage of development. This means ensuring that older children have access to more complicated puzzles and games whilst at the same time ensuring that younger children are not at risk of hazards such as toys with detachable parts which they could choke on. Children learn how to behave in a manner that ensures their own and other's safety. For example, children are reminded to take care when climbing off a chair to ensure they do not fall and hurt themselves.

Children's safety is paramount and the childminder has taken appropriate steps to identify and deal with most hazards in the home and garden. This includes use of stair gates, safety sockets and appropriate storage of hazardous materials. Suitable fire fighting and detection equipment is in place. However, the toilet which is used by children has a lock that can not be released from outside which means that children could become trapped inside. This compromises children's safety.

Children are protected from harm by the childminder who has a sound knowledge of child protection and understands her responsibilities in following correct procedures in the event of a concern. Appropriate contact numbers in the event of a child protection concern are readily available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and happy in the childminder's home. They benefit from the childminder knowing them well and having a sound knowledge of their family background and individual preferences. They approach the childminder with ease and she responds with care and concern. Children comfortably chat with the childminder about their home life or what they have done at the weekend. These positive relationships support their developing confidence and feelings of self-esteem.

Children are well occupied as the childminder ensures that they have access to a range of activities and play experiences both indoors and outdoors. Younger children love dressing up and playing with dolls and child sized equipment. They share story books with the childminder and play with construction toys, shape sorters and wheeled toys. The childminder ensures that day to day experiences help to build on children's developing language and knowledge. For example, when in the garden or out walking with the children she helps them to identify and name birds and other wildlife. Children frequently attend toddler groups with the childminder where they can mix with their peers and play with a varied selection of toys and resources.

Older children are helped to do homework if needed. They have opportunities to play on their games consoles or to relax and watch a DVD after a day at school. During the school holidays the childminder takes them to a local holiday camp where they participate in art and craft activities, music sessions and team games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are all treated with equal concern and their individual needs well known and met. They are learning about diversity through their access to resources which reflect positive images of race, gender and disability such as dolls, books and play figures.

There are no children currently attending with learning disabilities and/or difficulties. The childminder has a good understanding of the developmental milestones from birth onwards and would seek appropriate advice if she has any concerns. She understands the importance of working closely with parents and other agencies to help support children and to ensure their needs are met.

Children's behaviour is good and they are learning to be kind and considerate to their peers. They are routinely praised and encouraged in all they do which increases their confidence and self-esteem. The childminder has drawn up a list of house rules that is shared with parents and children. This sets out the expectations for everyone in the home and includes rules such as 'help tidy away' and 'eat at the table'. This helps children feel secure as they know what is expected of them.

Children benefit from an effective partnership with parents. Written policies and procedures that cover day to day routines and emergency situations are shared with parents. Children's individual care needs are recorded and good verbal feedback at the time of collection ensures good continuity of care. Parents are very pleased with the service provided. They identify 'the friendly atmosphere', 'the responsible and reliable approach' and the fact that their child 'runs in the door in the morning' as particular strengths of the service.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from well organised play areas, allowing time for active and quiet play both indoors and outside. They enjoy an environment where they receive appropriate adult support from the childminder to help them feel secure and confident. Children's care is enhanced by effective and efficient organisation. The childminder organises her daily routine around the children's needs. The day is well planned to accommodate journeys to and from school and to allow the children adequate time to rest, play and eat.

The childminder is suitably qualified and experienced. Written information is available for parents about the operational details of the service. Required documentation and systems for recording are in place, although the current children's attendance register records their proposed hours of attendance and not the actual hours they attend. The childminder is keen to ensure that all aspects of her work meet regulatory requirements and is willing to immediately address any weakness that are identified. Information is treated in a sensitive and confidential manner. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to devise a written policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious and discuss with parents and to ensure that resources reflect positive images of disability.

The childminder has drawn up a sick child policy that is shared with parents. This promotes children's health.

Resources that reflect positive images of disability including books and pictures are used. This helps children develop an understanding and respect of the wider world.

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 are not at risk of becoming locked in the toilet
- ensure the attendance register records the children's actual hours of attendance

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