

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	136922
Inspection date	16 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 1989. She lives with her husband and three adult children in Beckenham. The whole of the 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 for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five and three school age children; all children attend on a part time basis. The family has one dog, three cats and two rabbits. The childminder has a level three child care qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association, the Bromley Community Network and Bromley Special Needs Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are helped to learn about the importance of good hygiene through their daily routine. The childminder ensures that children wash their hands before meals, after going to the toilet

and when they arrive back from nursery or school. Children have good access to individual flannels and paper towels in a ground floor bathroom, which older children can independently use themselves. The childminder's home is kept clean and tidy and tables, kitchen surfaces and changing mats are cleaned on a regular basis to prevent cross infections.

The childminder provides well balanced snacks and meals throughout the day. A menu is available for parents so that they are aware of what their children are eating. Children enjoy various fruits, such as grapes, apples, bananas, Satsuma's, accompanied with hot cross buns, toast and pitta bread with different types of fillings. The childminder regularly introduces new tastes while taking into consideration children's favourite meals and allowing them to choose what meals they would like. Children have good opportunities take part in physical activities through regular trips to parks where they can use climbing frames, swings and slides

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are learning how to keep themselves safe as they practise fire drills. The childminder has very clear procedures in place which she discusses with the children to help them become aware of emergency evacuation procedures. There are good safety devices fitted throughout her home to protect children from potential dangers and hazards. Children are reminded about road safety on a daily basis, however, the childminder ensures the children understand it is different when they are in the park or another safe environment and they can fully participate in physical activities.

Children have safe access to a wide range of play materials, toys and equipment that are of good quality. They are frequently checked by the childminder to make sure that they are clean and in a good state of repair. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding about how to safeguard children in her care. She has attended training on child protection procedures to keep herself updated with 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.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They confidently initiate their own activities and play well together. The childminder meets their individual needs well. The childminder uses birth to three matters, and she plans activities in advance so that children take part in a wide range of fun and interesting balance of play and learning opportunities. The childminder balances her time well with the children so that they each receive quality time with her. She carries out regular observations and keeps records of their achievements so she can share them with parents. The children planted sunflowers and then measured themselves against the growing plants. Children are valued and the childminder helps children feel good about themselves by frequently providing positive support, praise and encouragement.

Children have good opportunities to use different media to draw and paint and express themselves in arts and crafts. Books are widely used by the children and the childminder ensures that their favourites are always available for them to look at. Children benefit from a broad range of outings throughout the week which gives them a chance to mix with children of a similar age. They regularly visit parks, toddler groups and the local library. Trips to the seaside and aquariums are also enjoyed, as are visits to the pet shop to help children understand the importance of caring for animals.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have access to a broad range of resources, play opportunities and activities, which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences. They have good opportunities to celebrate different festivals and events throughout the year and taste a variety of cultural foods. The childminder ensures that children have a chance to settle gradually in her care. They are introduced to her family and she keeps in close contact with parents at the start of a placement so they are aware of how their child is settling in.

Children behave well because the childminder has clear and consistent boundaries in place. As a result children know what is expected of them. They receive lots praise and encouragement from the childminder which contributes to them developing good self esteem. The childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for children with specific needs and offering an inclusive care. The childminder has strong partnership with parents. She shares information regarding their children's progress and well being on a daily basis and works closely with them to ensure each child's individual care needs are met well.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised home environment. The childminder makes the best use of her time to support the children in her care. Children are encouraged to play and learn independently as well as take part in stimulating activities throughout the day. The childminder attends relevant training courses on a regular basis to enhance her child care knowledge.

Well written policies and procedures guide the childminder in her daily practice. They are updated on a regular basis and shared and discussed with parents. The childminder understands and complies with the regulatory requirements; and although parents have the appropriate contact numbers they have not been given the name and address of Ofsted if they wish to report a concern. 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 drains do not pose as a hazard to children. All drains have now been covered so that children can play safely in the garden.

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