



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	137127
Inspection date	20 September 2005
Inspector	Denys Rasmussen

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 has been registered since 1990. She lives with her son aged 12 years. They live in a maisonette in Penge, Bromley. This is close to local schools, parks, shops and public transport. The whole of the premises is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

They family have goldfish and two cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children and is currently minding one child on a part time basis. She is a member of the Sure Start

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, well organised and comfortable home. Children learn about the importance of good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands, and brushing their teeth after meals. The child minder maintains a good standard of cleanliness in her home and children have their own towels and flannels. This reduces the risk of cross contamination.

Children take part in a range of activities that contribute to their good health and physical development, such as playing outdoors in local parks on a daily basis or practising physical skills such as kneading and rolling play dough. Children's physical care needs are well catered for and the childminder ensures children's individual needs are met, for example, by following the child's home routine.

The childminder keeps clear and accurate records where she will record, for example, any accidents that may have occurred. This ensures information can be effectively shared with parents to ensure children's health needs are met. Most parental consents are in place, however, there is no written consent to seek emergency medical assistance, which may result in parental wishes not being followed.

Nutritious snacks help children develop healthy eating habits from a young age. The childminder's commitment to training will ensure she helps children to eat for health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to move freely and safely around the home and garden because the childminder takes effective steps to reduce potential hazards. The childminder practises the emergency evacuation procedures on a regular basis. This helps children become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency.

The risk of accidents outside the home is reduced because the childminder is conscientious about ensuring children are safe on outings, for example, she uses reins when walking and makes sure they have appropriate restraints in the car. The routine of visiting familiar safe places allow children freedom in a controlled way.

The childminder gives high priority to maintaining children's safety, for example, by supervising them at all times. The children choose activities from a good variety of quality resources, which the childminder makes sure are suitable for their age and stage of development so they can play safely. Children are well protected; the childminder recognises her responsibility to the children in her care and understands the procedures she must follow if concerned about the welfare of a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and settled and make themselves at home within the setting. They relate well to the childminder because she joins in with their play and is very positive in her interaction. The children enjoy the close contact with the childminder and respond well to her encouragement. Children experience a wide range of activities both inside and outside of the home, this contributes to their development.

Children are happy and secure with good levels of self-esteem and confidence as a result of the childminder's praise and support. Children's independence is encouraged, for example, through accessible resources and being encouraged to voice their needs.

Children develop a sense of belonging through the consistent routine and positive relationships they have with the childminder. Children learn to listen and respond while enjoying and sharing stories and songs. The childminder promotes children's learning by talking to them about what they are doing and asking questions that encourage them to think.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and their individual needs well met because the childminder works closely with parents. Children are well settled because the childminder spends time getting to know them and follows their home routine. The childminder encourages parents' suggestions and involvement, she shares information daily about the children's day and keeps a portfolio about her service for parents' information.

Children behave well because of the childminder's realistic expectations. Her good use of praise and encouragement help build children's self esteem and self control. Children learn to be kind by the childminder's good example and positive interaction. They show increasing independence, for example, when they select toys and play materials and help tidy up. Children have access to resources and outings that promote a positive view of the wider community.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised environment which helps them gain confidence and be independent. Children's play opportunities are maximised because of the organisation of the childminder who ensures she understands the children's interests and promotes their enjoyment of the outdoors.

The childminder attends training whenever she can. This ensures she is able to provide appropriate and up-to-date care for the children she looks after.

Well written policies and procedures guide the childminder in her daily practice. This ensures children's needs are met and all relevant information is shared with parents. A good two-way flow of information ensures continuity of care. Children's needs are well met because of the good relationships and effective communication with the parents. Parents are well informed about their child's day and the care provided.

Excellent documentation which is well maintained and kept confidentially works well in practise to keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has improved the accessibility of children's toys and has provided resources which reflect race, religion and culture. She now keeps a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 consent from parents to seek emergency medical assistance or advice.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk