



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 136550 |
| Inspection date | 01 December 2005 |
| Inspector | Sandra Rosemary Pierce |

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| 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 1986. She lives with her husband and two adult children. They live in a house in Petts Wood, the London borough of Bromley. The house is situated in a residential road and there are transport links, schools, parks and shops in the vicinity. The whole of the living area on the ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and is currently minding 3 children under 5 part-time and 1e child over 5 before and

after school and during holidays. The family have 2 cats and tropical fish.

The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and meets other childminders on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene and self-care skills through effective daily routines. They take an active part in toilet training, have responsibility for disposing of their own nappy sacks appropriately, and learn the importance of washing hands to prevent the spread of infection.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. A variety of fresh food and vegetables is available to them on a daily basis. The childminder has regard for parental wishes, and provides nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs. Children enjoy eating together at the dining table, making meal times sociable occasions.

Children enjoy regular opportunities for exercise and fresh air. They walk to activity groups and school, and visit local parks to feed the ducks. These features of the daily routine help children to develop their physical skills and co-ordination, and to have positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's play space is organised to allow them to move around safely. The childminder's premises are being renovated and she undertakes risk assessments and uses safety precautions such as stair gates to prevent children accessing areas of the property where reconstruction work is in progress. The childminder supervises children well and discusses safe practices with them. However, children are not familiar with the routine to follow in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Children use a range of safe play resources set out in boxes at child-height to encourage independent access. Children gain an insight into personal safety whilst walking to and from activities and school, and on outings to the park. They comply with road safety guidance from the childminder, learn to hold hands, stop and wait at the kerb, look carefully and listen for traffic.

Children's welfare is protected appropriately. The childminder ensures information about child protection procedures is readily accessible and is aware of her responsibility for keeping children free from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play happily at their chosen activity with the childminder's support and encouragement. They explore their experiences and ideas through role-play, caring for dolls and putting them to bed. Constructing imaginative buildings from Lego bricks stimulates children's natural curiosity and aids their spatial perception. Singing activities encourage rhythmical movement and contribute to the children's developing communication skills. Young children have fewer opportunities to extend their language development and begin to make connections between pictures and real objects through the meaningful use of books.

Children benefit from regular outings to places of interest. They attend toddler and activity groups where they socialize and have fun with their peers. Outings such as these promote their learning and increase their knowledge of the wider world.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop loving relationships with the childminder. They are at ease and learn how to manage their behaviour. They understand the need to share and take turns when playing together. Children benefit from the positive partnerships the childminder develops with parents. Babies and toddlers settle because the childminder works closely with parents to ensure they follow similar routines to those at home. The childminder shares important information about children's needs, development and interests. She keeps a daily diary to provide parents with a clear view of the service she provides.

Children feel valued and gain increasing independence. They become involved in decision-making and their self-confidence increases with support and encouragement from the minder.

Children learn about the world around them during their regular outings to activities and to the park. However, younger children have fewer opportunities to access resources such as books that reflect and promote a positive view of the wider community.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Effective organisation of space and daily play and rest routines help children to feel secure and support their learning and care. All mandatory records are in place to support the sound management of the service and promote children's welfare. Documentation is well maintained and kept confidentially.

The childminder keeps daily records that she shares with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to maintain a daily record of all children's hours of attendance.

She has taken action by implementing the appropriate recording procedures to support children's safety and well-being.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- devise an escape plan in the event of fire or other emergencies and practice it with the minded children
- provide and organise books to enable young children easy access to a range that assists development of language and communication skills and promotes their concepts of the wider community.

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