



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124518
Inspection date	29 September 2005
Inspector	Ceri Ann Mills

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 1995. She lives with her husband and their two adult children in a semi detached house in the West Wickham area of Bromley, Kent. The property is within walking distance of a park and shops.

Childminding is carried out on the ground floor only where children have access to the living room, the conservatory and the hall. There are toilet and sleep facilities provided on the ground floor.

There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The family have a pet

rabbit.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under 8 years and currently there are three children on roll, of whom one attends full-time. The childminder supports children with special needs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play, eat and rest in a scrupulously clean and well maintained environment. The childminder follows good routines for hygiene, such as regularly washing the carpet so that babies and younger children have a clean and clear floor on which to play. Babies sleep contently at times which meet their individual sleep patterns and are comfortable because their nappies are changed as often as required. Children's individual health and welfare needs are effectively met because the childminder obtains comprehensive information from parents. Children are protected from ill health because the childminder has agreed with parents that sick children should stay at home. Children receive plenty of fresh air which contributes to their good health. The childminder takes children out for walks most days and older children have opportunities to play in the garden and use fixed equipment in the park which develops and enhances their physical wellbeing. Children's individual dietary needs are met well because the childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and ensures food brought into the home is stored and prepared correctly. Children help themselves to their own drinks which are readily available and the childminder ensures that there is always cooled boiled water for the baby to drink.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure home environment, where most potential risks have been identified and necessary precautions taken. Nursery equipment is effectively used to ensure access is restricted to areas that the childminder deems unsafe for children, such as the stairs and kitchen. However the position of the lock on the toilet door could compromise children's safety. Fire safety arrangements are met well. Smoke alarms are in position, an emergency evacuation plan is in place and a new fire blanket has been purchased. Children benefit from the close supervision of the childminder both in and out of the house. Children sleep on the ground floor and are regularly monitored by the childminder who is within sight/hearing of the children at all times. Children are safely controlled whilst out walking because effective strategies, such as the use of the pushchair and reins, are in place. Babies have access to safe equipment and suitable toys, which are within easy reach. Older children play with equipment which is kept out of reach of babies. Children's safety in relation to child protection is assured because the childminder has a clear understanding of what action to take if she has any concerns for their welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well in the childminders home because she is warm and attentive to their individual care needs. They benefit from the cuddles and comfort they receive from the childminder, particularly before and after a sleep. Babies listen to and imitate sound when the childminder sings and talks to them during everyday routines, such as nappy changing. Children enjoy a good variety of activities that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Younger children are provided with a range of well chosen resources which support their learning experiences and stimulate their senses. For example, the baby enjoys exploring musical toys and responds with a delighted gurgle when the toys make a noise. Older children's confidence and independence is promoted as they can access the play materials easily and make their own choices. Their language skills and mathematical thinking is supported well because the childminder encourages children to talk about what they see and use everyday objects to count and recognise number. Children learn a great deal about the world in which they live from planned visits on the bus to visit another childminder and outings, such as feeding the ducks in the park.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from continuity of care because the childminder builds positive relationships with parents. The childminder shares information daily with parents and takes account of the information given to her, to provide for children's individual needs. For example, the childminder is fully aware of the baby's feeding and sleeping patterns, enabling her to regard these in the planning of the daily routine. The childminder tells parents about her policies and procedures and obtains written permission for aspects of care such as travel consent and emergency treatment. Children develop a sense of place and learn about where they live through the regular outings provided. Children begin to appreciate similarities and differences in the wider world because they access a range of resources which reflect diversity; such as, books and role play equipment, and benefit from the childminder's positive attitude, particularly in relation to special needs. Children gain confidence and independence knowing that the childminder is close by, ready to support and help if needed. Children benefit from the consistent approach which the childminder has for managing behaviour. She treats children with kindness and respect and encourages good behaviour by setting a good example.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are content and well cared for in this clean and organised home environment. They receive good levels of support and are able to move safely and comfortably around the home because the childminder organises her time, space and resources well. Effective storage arrangements for play materials enable children to

be fully supervised at all times, whilst allowing children to develop their own independence to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Children are protected from people who have not been vetted as the childminder ensures all checks are carried out. All mandatory records are maintained efficiently and information is exchanged frequently between childminder and children's parents to ensure the childminder is fully aware of each child's changing needs, to enable her to meet these accordingly. The childminder is unfamiliar with the Birth to Three Matters framework; however, she plans to seek further information to keep her childcare practice up to date.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection took place at the childminder's previous address with the following recommendations made: to include times of arrival and departure on the daily record of attendance; gain written consent from parents and keep a signed record of medication administered; extend the range of resources to promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has reviewed her attendance records which now include the necessary details. The childminder's policy is not to care for children who are unwell, however she is fully aware of the medication requirements. She would seek written parental consent before administering medication and keep a record which parents would be requested to sign. Children have access to a range of toys which reflect different cultures and through trips in the community they begin to learn about diversity.

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):

- develop an understanding of birth to three matters framework
- make lock on toilet door inaccessible to children

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