

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	136660
Inspection date	28 February 2008
Inspector	Michelle Smith
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 1994. She lives with her two children, one of whom is now adult, in Penge within the London borough of Bromley. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for two children at any one time and is currently minding two children on a part-time basis. She takes children to the local library and park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy meals that are well balanced and which meet their individual needs. The childminder works in partnership with parents to take children's likes and dislikes into account. For instance, a parent requested a particular breakfast cereal for her children and this was provided. The childminder provides a varied menu, including cultural dishes. Mealtimes are used as a social event, where children talk with others. Children have drinking water throughout the day and with their meals.

Children benefit from a clean and well maintained home. The kitchen surfaces are cleaned before and after meal preparation. Children's health is protected, because the childminder understands good hygiene practice. There are systems for recording accidents and medication administered to children. There are clear procedures in place for children who become unwell. Children with infectious diseases are not allowed to attend the setting, which protects the health of the other children. However, the sick children policy is shared verbally with parents and is not available in writing. There are adequate facilities for children to wash their hands on arrival from school and before meals. This helps children develop a positive attitude towards good hygiene practice. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate and is therefore able to administer first aid safely in the event of an emergency. There is a first aid box in place. The childminder has completed other health-related training courses, such as epipen training, and has a positive attitude towards updating her knowledge.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children access a home that is warm, welcoming, safe and secure. There is a fully enclosed garden where children can play safely. Toys and equipment are in good condition and meet safety standards.

All safety equipment in place, such as smoke alarms, is in working order. Children are kept safe on outings because clear procedures are in place. The childminder uses appropriate car seats and all children wear seat belts. Children are constantly supervised inside the home and on outings. Children are developing an understanding of road safety and how to keep themselves safe through regular discussions with the childminder. The childminder has a good understanding of safety, which contributes towards the safety of the children.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. She has completed child protection training and is aware of the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child. However, she does not have a copy of the 'What to do if you are worried about a child being abused' document. She does have a copy of the local authority child protection guidelines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well settled and move around the home confidently as they play and communicate with others. Children access a good range of play materials throughout the day, which contributes to their enjoyment and learning. Children enjoy playing a game of Connect 4, which shows that they are developing a positive attitude towards rules and taking turns. The childminder understands the importance of keeping children entertained throughout the day and provides different play experiences. Children enjoy visits to the local park, where they access large climbing equipment. This helps develop their physical skills and coordination. Children enjoy their time with the childminder and take part in interesting and creative activities, such as making Mother's Day cards.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children play with materials that reflect positive images of diversity. They socialise with children from different cultural backgrounds, which helps them to develop a positive attitude towards

difference. However, there are no play materials that reflect positive images of disability. The childminder has experience of caring for children with special educational needs. She is ready to work with other professionals to make preparations for children in her care. The childminder is good at acknowledging children's achievements and offers praise and encouragement. There are clear strategies in place for managing children's behaviour. Children are well behaved and play harmoniously with their friends. The childminder's positive approach towards the children provides a stimulating environment. Children are developing a sense of belonging through the close relationships built with the childminder. Information is exchanged verbally between the childminder and parents, and this benefits the children in her care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at ease in the well organised environment. They enjoy their time with the childminder and initiate their own play. Adults in the home have completed the necessary checks to ensure they are suitable to be with children. The childminder has updated her childcare knowledge through different courses. Parents are kept informed of any changes that occur to the service. 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 keep a written record, signed by parents, of any medication administered to children. This is now in place. The recommendation to improve the range of resources that reflect positive images of disability has still not been met.

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):

- improve resources which reflect positive images of disability
- develop a written sick children's policy.

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