



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY304252
Inspection date	21 December 2005
Inspector	Sandra Rosemary Pierce

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her partner and daughter aged two years.

They live in a house in the London borough of Bromley within walking distance of a local primary school and Bromley town centre. The whole of the property with the exception of the main bedroom is used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time

and is currently minding three children, who attend on a part-time basis. The family has a pet cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She takes children to the local library, parks, parent/carer and toddler groups and a music group, and has contact with other childminders.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they recognise the importance of good hygiene practices and personal care. They learn to reduce the risk of cross-contamination by washing their hands thoroughly before eating food, and after using the toilet. Effective nappy changing procedures are in place and the use of disposable gloves helps prevent the spread of infection.

There are good opportunities for physical play. Children enjoy a range of outdoor activities including garden play and regular trips to the local park. This fosters a positive attitude towards exercise and helps to promote children's physical development. The younger children join in enthusiastically because the childminder makes good use of the Birth to three matters framework. Her clear understanding about appropriate types of activities and levels of support gives them confidence to try out new skills and develop control of their bodies.

Children are beginning to understand about their nutritional requirements. The childminder takes account of the wishes of the parents and provides a balanced and nutritious range of meals and snacks that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs. Drinks are readily accessible to the children and they are encouraged to eat a variety of fruit and vegetables on a daily basis. This helps form the foundations from which, with increasing independence, children can make healthy choices for themselves.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children can move safely and freely around the ground floor of the house because the childminder takes effective steps to minimize the risk of accidents. The childminder supervises children well, undertakes risk assessments and uses safety precautions such as stair gates to prevent young children falling down steps and accessing stairs.

Children use a range of safe equipment and resources stored at appropriate child-height to encourage independent access. The childminder skilfully explains safe practices, for example, using singing rhymes to encourage children to follow the correct actions before crossing the road.

Children's welfare is protected. The childminder ensures information about child protection procedures is readily accessible. She has up-to-date first aid training 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 settle well at the childminder's house. Calm, caring approaches help children to develop a sense of trust. The childminder effectively supports children's individual needs, taking into account their different ages and stages of development. The childminder uses the Birth to three matters framework to adapt activities such as singing and story telling to promote younger children's learning. Children enjoy listening to stories and have good opportunities to extend their language development and understanding of representation through access to appropriate picture books. They respond positively to rhythm and rhyming activities and develop their knowledge and understanding of life through imaginative role-play. All children receive the childminder's support and encouragement in their chosen activity.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected and there is a commitment to ensuring all children feel secure and included. The childminder and parents share regular information in a variety of formats to ensure both parties keep up-to-date regarding children's individual needs, progress and development.

Children behave well and respond appropriately to the expectations of the childminder. For example, they help to tidy up whilst singing the "tidy-up" song. The childminder's good use of praise and encouragement builds the children's self-esteem.

Children have opportunities to learn about the world around them when they visit the local shops, parent and toddler groups and library. They consider festivals and celebrations within activity planning. However, there are limited toy resources representing a positive image of the wider community.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The home environment is welcoming and child orientated. Space, resources and daily routines are planned effectively to help children to feel secure and comfortable in the childminder's care.

The childminder organises documentation to underpin the safe management of the service provided. Mandatory records are accessible in most instances. They are generally contained in the childminding box file, which is stored to ensure

confidentiality. Sound written policies and procedures are set out in a portfolio and shared with parents. Parents are kept well informed about their children's day and of the care provided.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the childminder's first inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- increase the range of play resources including those that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice
- ensure all mandatory recording systems are accessible and available for inspection at all times.

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