



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY315996
Inspection date	16 March 2006
Inspector	Hazel Stuart-Buddery

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 satisfactory. 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 registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and four children in Ashford Middlesex. The whole of the ground floor, apart from the front room, is used for childminding with use of an upstairs bedroom for quiet rest and bathroom facilities. There is a secure garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children and currently has four on the register on a part time basis.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

The family have a pet dog, two cats and keep tropical fish.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. There are some effective procedure in place to prevent the spread of infection. The childminder wears gloves to change nappies, sanitizes the mat after every nappy change and disposes of nappies appropriately. However, all children share the same towel to dry their hands. Children benefit from healthy lunches and snacks. All dietary and medical needs are discussed with parents, although, not all recorded on contracts.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate. This means she can give appropriate care if there is an accident. Children's healthcare is not fully promoted as not all required documentation is in place. Their good health is promoted because they have daily opportunities to go on walks to the park and get lots of fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and rest in a secure environment. They are not fully protected from hazards because the childminder has not identified and minimized all risks within the home. Children move freely around the home and self-select toys that are stored safely.

The childminder has an adequate awareness of safety related issues, although required documentation is not in place. Written permission to take children on outings and to transport children in a vehicle are not obtained from parents. This means that parents wishes may not be respected. Children are not fully protected from the risk of fire as a smoke alarm is not installed on all levels of the home. Children's welfare is sufficiently supported. The childminder has an awareness of child protection issues. However, unsure of the procedure to follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and content in the childminder's care. They enjoy a variety of activities that are appropriate to their ages. The childminder offers help and support and encourages children to explore and investigate. Children are settled and relaxed because the childminder works closely with parents to ensure daily routines are consistent with their home experiences.

The childminder sits on the floor with the children and encourages them to sort shapes into the Noah's Ark shape sorter. Lots of praise is offered when the children

successfully put the right shape in. The children giggle with delight and smile proudly as the childminder claps. The childminder is warm and affectionate towards the children. She allows them to make their own choices and responds to their interests. This helps them to feel valued and have a sense of well-being.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder is aware of equality of opportunity, however, resources to reflect diversity and help children learn about differences are limited. Children benefit from continuity of care as their individual needs are discussed with parents. Children have clear house rules and boundaries that are shared with parents. They benefit from lots of praise and encouragement given by the childminder. The childminder advises that older children generally play well together and are learning to share and take turns through consistent behaviour management. These measures help children to feel safe and secure.

The childminder shares her policies and procedures verbally with parents. She takes time on a daily basis to exchange information about their child progress. Written contracts are in place, but not completed fully. These measures help to promote partnership with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed and settled and benefit from plenty of space to play. They receive good support from the childminder that helps them to feel safe and secure.

The childminder discusses most elements of care with parents. Not all required consent is in place and some areas of information on the children's record forms are not fully completed and lack relevant information. She has verbal policies and procedures in place and shares most of them with parents. The childminder is unsure about the recent changes to the regulations. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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

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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 daily hygiene procedures to help prevent spread of infection
- ensure a full risk assessment is completed to identify hazards and procedures in place to minimize risks to children
- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and of the procedure to follow
- ensure all required documentation and parental consents are in place in line with standard 12 and 14 of the National Standards
- ensure the recent changes in regulation are implemented and shared with parents.

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