



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY101284
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Deborah Jane Orchard
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 2002. She lives with her two children in a maisonette in the London Borough of Hounslow. All areas of the maisonette are used for childminding purposes, and children have supervised access to a communal outside play area.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of two children under eight years. She is currently caring for one child under five years.

The household has a pet hamster

The childminder takes children to various local pre-schools and places of interest. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **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 are able to learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. For example, they are able to use a small step and toilet trainer seat to help develop their self help skills and wash their hands regularly. Children are protected from unnecessary illness and infection as the childminder sustains a good level of hygiene within the home and children do not attend when contagious.

Children benefit from a healthy and well balanced diet as they are offered fruit at snack time and enjoy nutritious meals, such as rice and vegetables. They are able to sit comfortably in suitable seats at the table. They can access drinking water regularly throughout the day. Children's dietary requirements are taken into account, which ensures their individual needs are met.

Children benefit from fresh air and regular exercise as they participate in a wide range of activities such as playing with hoops and balls, visiting play areas and parks. This helps to promote their physical development and well being.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure environment. They are able to move around freely as there is sufficient space available and the home is kept clear of any clutter. Children have access to a range of suitable equipment and resources which are clean and kept in good condition. They are able to self select toys which are stored at their level, which encourages their independence.

Children have some protection in the event of fire as the childminder has an understanding of emergency evacuation procedures and has a fire blanket in place, however, there is not currently a smoke alarm fitted on every level of the premises. The impact on children is reduced as the childminder has one smoke alarm.

Although the childminder takes steps to identify and reduce hazards within the home, children can gain access to some utensils which are kept within their reach. The risks to children are reduced as she supervises children in their activities. Children are able to understand how to keep safe whilst outdoors as the childminder discusses road safety.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a understanding of her role and responsibilities regarding child protection. For example, she is aware of what steps to take and possible indicators of abuse.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and enjoy their time with the childminder as they have formed good relationships. For example, the childminder responds to their needs as make choices and express their wishes. They have fun together as they play "flippin penguins" and talk about different colours in the game.

Children have fun as they play happily with a good range of suitable toys and resources which help to promote their learning. For example, they are developing their imagination as they play with the house and small world people. They are developing their vocabulary and communication skills as the childminder asks questions to extend their learning. They talk about changing the battery in the game and how things work.

Children have good opportunities to learn about the wider world and living things. For example, they make links between the pictures of hamsters and cages in a reference book and show the pet hamster the similarities.

The childminder extends the opportunities for children to socialise as they make regular trips to local groups where they are able to participate in a wide range of creative activities.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are able to feel good about themselves and develop self esteem as they have access to a range of resources which positively reflect diversity. For example, there is a good selection of books, puzzles and dressing up clothes. These opportunities are extended by participating in activities at local groups, such as celebrating different festivals and card making.

Children are developing in confidence as the childminder recognises each child as an individual. For example, she uses key words in different languages to help children to feel valued and understood. Children are able to develop a positive self- image as the childminder has a good attitude towards inclusion.

Children behave well as the childminder treats them with respect and praises and encourages children in their daily activities. They are able to understand right from wrong as the childminder has a consistent approach and uses appropriate behaviour management strategies.

Children benefit from the sound partnership between parents, carers and the childminder. They work together to ensure the children's needs are met. For example, they communicate daily both verbally and by using communication books.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare and development is promoted through well organised routines which allow for regular meals, play and quiet times. Children are able to make good use of the available

space and select resources as the childminder displays these accessibly and attractively. Toys are rotated regularly, which helps keep children's interest.

Children are protected from persons who are unchecked, through the childminder's supervision. The childminder demonstrates interest in continuing to develop her knowledge through training and information. Good progress has been made regarding enhancing safety since the last inspection and the childminder is willing to make further improvements as required.

All required documentation and policies which contributes to children well being are in place. These are stored securely, well organised and made available for inspection. These are shared with parents and carers to keep them informed about the service and activities on offer.

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

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was found to be inadequate, and actions were set relating to safety issues when using the car and hazards within the home. Since the last inspection there has been good improvement. The childminder is now able to provide documentation in connection with transporting a child in a vehicle and has procedures in place to ensure children are kept safe. Most hazards within the home have been identified, which helps to protect children. However, children are still able to gain access to sharp utensils and objects. The impact on children is reduced as the childminder ensures that children are supervised.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require the provider to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. The provider is required to keep a record of any 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 safety by ensuring children cannot gain access to sharp objects and utensils
- improve fire safety by ensuring smoke alarms are provided at every level of the premises

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)