



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY251902
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Kanwal Sonia Lobo
<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 2003. She lives with her husband and their two children aged 10 years and eight years. The family have no pets. They live in a four bedroom house in Edgware, in the London Borough of Barnet.

The main areas of the home used for childminding purposes are the kitchen, utility room, play room and downstairs toilet. There is a rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of three children and has 14 children on roll who attend on different days of the week. She minds with a co-childminder, and together they may care for a maximum of six children. Currently they are caring for six children between them from 09:00-12:00, five days a week during term time only. Both childminders have joint responsibility for the childminding practice.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children thrive in a clean and welcoming environment as there are good systems in place to ensure this, such as, regular cleaning of equipment and areas of the home accessed by the children. They are protected from infection or harmful bacteria by the high standards of hygiene implemented at times such as nappy changing.

Children are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through the care routines in place. Some children are beginning to make the connection of the need to clean their hands before eating and some do so independently by using the baby wipes.

Children enjoy a variety of healthy snacks on offer which include both fresh and dried fruits. Although the children attending are young, they are beginning to learn how to eat independently. This is because portions are manageable, which in turn, helps children to handle food themselves.

There are some good outdoor play opportunities for children. They benefit from being able to engage in exercise and receive fresh air during their time spent at the setting. Children enjoy accessing the activities organised for them, some of which include riding bikes, push along toys and a mini ball pond.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are offered high levels of supervision and are always in sight and hearing of the childminder. However, there remains a weakness with regards to safety in one area of the home. This is because the systems to identify risks such as the safe storage of alcohol are not yet robust.

Children's safety is considered through ensuring they access toys and equipment that are safe and in good condition. The premises are secure and the systems in place, such as, the attendance register contributes towards ensuring the safe arrival and collection of children.

Space and equipment are used well to promote children's overall safety. Children are becoming increasingly aware of their boundaries and are offered explanations as they explore their surroundings. The demarcation of space by the use of safety gates further supports this.

The protection of children is recognised by the childminder as being paramount. Children's safety and wellbeing is safeguarded to some extent by the childminder's knowledge of child protection issues and procedures.

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

The provision is good.

In the main, children are happy and content playing either by themselves or with the childminder.

The interaction between the children and the childminder is warm and positive. Some children are confident to approach her for a cuddle or to sit on her lap whilst others are being settled and becoming familiar with the routines and the environment. There are good settling-in procedures which allow children to make the transition from home easier.

Children benefit from the systems that are in place, such as, organising activities and learning experiences that are in line with their stage of development. They are involved in a range of activities which support their language and mathematical thinking. Their talking and listening skills are being developed as they are encouraged to talk about what they are doing or playing with.

Children are able to freely access the range of toys and play equipment on offer. Activities are organised in order to encourage children's interest. There are opportunities for older children to make choices, such as selecting resources for themselves, and they enjoy accessing these, as they make a special trip to the garage. This in turn helps children to initiate their own play.

The immediate needs of the children are met effectively because the childminder has a good understanding of each child.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are encouraged and supported to participate in all activities through the warm and positive language used by the childminder. The play provision on offer is rotated in order to keep children interested in what is on offer. They are developing an awareness of the wider community through some of the resources that reflect positive images and these form an integral part of their play and experiences.

Children receive praise and recognition for their achievements and this in turn, at times, reinforces the good behaviour and promotes their self esteem. Children have a growing awareness of themselves and the childminder values their feelings and contributions. This enables children to relay their fears or express their needs without any hesitation.

Children's sense of security and belonging is beginning to be fostered through the working partnership between the childminder and parents. The childminder works closely and cooperatively with the parents, encouraging a regular verbal exchange of information. As a result, children are beginning to form a close and trusting relationship with her. A range of information relating to the care and service offered is available for parents. However, the childminder has not yet fully updated her procedure relating to complaints.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The space is organised effectively to meet the needs of children and the environment is bright and welcoming. The childminder works closely with her co-childminder. Their partnership is effective in meeting the immediate and individual needs of the children in their care as they have joint responsibility for the childminding practice.

The childminder has in place most of the required documentation to promote the safe and efficient management of the provision. She takes overall responsibility for maintaining the appropriate records. The childminder is keen to develop her knowledge and understanding of procedures, such as complaints. In the event that a complaint is received, systems are being put in place to record these.

The childminder has a commitment to ongoing training. Although, she does not hold a current first aid certificate she has identified first aid training courses which include first aid training for infants and young children. She anticipates attending an appropriate course at the next available opportunity.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, three recommendations were raised and these have now been met.

The childminder agreed to increase the opportunities for child initiated activities, present equipment in a way that enables children to make choices and to record attendance times for children.

The childminder is now providing and planning more play opportunities in order for children to initiate their own play and learning. She is organising equipment more effectively so that children can choose from a selection of activities on offer. Children's record of attendance now includes times of their arrival and departure.

Overall, the improvements which have been made contribute to providing a better child care service to parents and their children.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- continue to assess the risks and hazards in the home in order to further improve children's safety.
- maintain an appropriate first aid qualification which includes training in first aid for infants and young children.
- update the complaints procedure to include all the required information.

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)