



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138425
Inspection date	02 August 2006
Inspector	Christine Bonnett

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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1986. She lives with her husband in Hayes, in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Part of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five all day and one child over five after school.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has one cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being in a home that is maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. For example, although the family has a cat, the childminder ensures the lounge is free of hairs and there is no unpleasant smell. Consequently, children can play comfortably on the floor without any risk to their health. In addition, the childminder adopts good hygiene practices when nappy changing, such as using antibacterial wipes to clean the changing mat after each use.

Children's health is further safeguarded by the childminder as she limits the time that children are exposed to the harmful effects of the sun during hot weather. She ensures they have plenty of water to drink to prevent dehydration. However, she does not have parental permission to apply sun block. Although the childminder has experience of administering first aid, she does not hold a current first aid certificate.

Children's meals and snacks are provided by their parents. However, the childminder provides fresh fruit to encourage children to enjoy healthy options.

Children are developing well physically as they have access to a well-maintained garden. Here they have the opportunity to run, swing and slide within a secure environment. Regular walks to the local park also help to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move around freely in a spacious environment that has no obvious safety hazards. The home is light, bright, clean and welcoming for children. The range of childcare equipment means that all the children can eat and sleep in comfort using appropriate furniture for their age, such as highchairs and travel cots. All equipment is clean and in good condition. Children self-select the play equipment they wish to use from the variety presented each day, or from the toy-box in the lounge.

An understanding of keeping themselves safe on outings is being promoted in the children because the childminder makes sure they listen to her when they are out, and follow her instructions. For example, stopping at the kerb, and listening and watching for cars before crossing the road. Although an emergency escape plan from the premises has been devised, it has not been practised with children.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's in-depth knowledge and understanding of child protection matters. She knows the signs and symptoms a child may exhibit that could indicate they were being harmed and the procedure to follow to report such concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy playing with a range of resources that are suitable for their age, such as cars and a garage, books, and a 'first computer'. The childminder sets out a variety of play equipment each day, but also allows the children to select what they would like to do. However, she does not assess their progress and provide resources to actively encourage their developmental progress. The Birth to three matters framework is not used to support children's learning.

Children are happy and content in the care of the childminder. They laugh and have fun as they particularly enjoy riding motorised tricycles in the garden. Children regularly walk to the local park and occasionally visit the library. Children relate well to the childminder. The interaction is warm and affectionate, which means they are becoming confident to express their needs and wishes.

Younger children have the opportunity to socialise regularly with others at the local 'friendship group'. Older children have age appropriate resources to use, such as a compendium of board games and jigsaws.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder knows the children in her care very well, and anticipates their needs in relation to their physical well-being. Children benefit from being with a familiar and trusted adult within a family environment.

Children have the opportunity to socialise with others from the local and wider community. They also have access to a good range of resources that enable them to develop a positive view of diversity within society, and an understanding of others. For example, the childminder has made a scrapbook for the children that contains positive images of different cultures and ethnicities.

Age-appropriate and positive strategies are used to manage any behavioural difficulties that may arise. For example, the 'house rules' are applied consistently. These include not touching electrical equipment, or climbing on furniture. Consequently, the concept of right and wrong is being reinforced in ways that the children understand. In addition, to be able to give support, the childminder obtained a book about bullying to work through with a child, when she had difficulties at school.

Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are welcome in the childminder's home as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare and has gained experience in this field of work. Children benefit from the effective working relationship the childminder establishes with parents. Relevant information about the day is shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service provided and their children's activities.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel comfortable and at ease within a family home environment. The childminder organises the day to include quiet times indoors and physical exercise outdoors. Space is available for children to explore play equipment easily and unhindered. This helps to ensure the children have a positive experience.

The health, safety and well-being of the children are also promoted by the childminder as she maintains up-to-date records. However, some, such as the attendance register and accident book lack the necessary detail. In addition, a log in which to record any complaints has not been created.

Children benefit because the childminder understands the value of working together with parents. By exchanging information on a regular basis, children enjoy continuity, and consistency of care.

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 was required to ensure that her records were well organised to be able to present them to an inspector on request. This has now been achieved by obtaining a folder in which to keep them all together, and easily accessible.

The childminder was also required to obtain information about each child to ensure their safety, and appropriate care. Detailed information sheets are maintained, and any significant events in relation to behaviour or achievements are fully recorded

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- attend first aid training that includes first aid for infants and young children
- obtain written parental permission to administer sun block to children
- practise the emergency escape plan with children
- increase understanding of the needs of children under three through use of the birth to three matters framework
- ensure children's surnames are entered in the attendance register and accident book
- maintain a record of any complaints made by parents or carers

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