



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	137663
Inspection date	11 January 2007
Inspector	Bharti Vakil
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 2000. She lives in a second floor flat with her school aged child in Wembley Park in the London borough of Brent. Children have access to the living room, playroom and the hallway.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and there are currently two children on roll. During the inspection two children under three years were present. The childminder walks and drives to the local school to take and collect children.

The family has no pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and welfare is well promoted and they are learning good hygiene practices, for example cleaning hands before meal times. Young children are beginning to learn about keeping themselves healthy and developing independence skills as they are encouraged to wipe their noses with wipes which are easily accessible. Children are protected from cross infection or harmful bacteria by the good standards of hygiene practised such as regular cleaning of the home and during nappy changing.

Children are protected from unnecessary illness as the childminder ensures they do not attend if they are un-well or suffering from infections. Children's well-being is promoted as there are good procedures in place for administering medication and dealing with accidents. However, the accident log available for inspection does not include the date the accident occurred. Children's well-being is safeguarded by the childminder's understanding of emergency first aid.

Parents provide meals and snacks for their children. The childminder makes suitable arrangements to store and re-heat the food. Children are fed in a warm and relaxing atmosphere, therefore they are happy and content. They access drinks on a regular basis throughout the day, they are confident to ask for snacks and drinks when feeling hungry or thirsty.

Children happily play with pull and push-along toys and dance to background music. There are regular outdoor activities such as walks, outings to parks and visits to toddler groups where children have opportunities to explore a wide range of activities and apparatus. These activities promote children's overall physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to explore and move around safely because the childminder has taken steps to minimise potential risks, for example, all cleaning materials are inaccessible to children. However, the fire blanket has not been installed in the kitchen as instructed by the manufacturer. The emergency evacuation procedure has not been practised with the children. The boiler has not been serviced by a suitable professional since February 2005 and therefore it's safety is questionable. The childminder has inappropriate systems in place for outings for example, when transferring young children from the second floor flat to the car parked in the garage. At this time children are not consistently supervised to ensure their security. This impacts on children's safety and security.

Children enjoy a warm and welcoming home as the childminder has organised the space in her home very well. The children's playroom is attractively set out with a wide range of toys and resources placed at the children's level. As a result, children happily use developmentally appropriate toys and learning materials. Children rest and eat in comfort. A range of equipment

such as double buggy, cot, car seats, child size furniture and toilet step are available to meet the care needs of the children attending.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has sound knowledge of her role and responsibility in child protection. She is aware of possible signs and symptoms of abuse and knows the procedures to follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a warm and secure relationship with the childminder, which enables them to extend their learning in a supportive environment. Children are curious and play enthusiastically with a wide range of toys and activities which promotes their learning and development. The resources are well-organised and attractively presented. This enables children to develop independence skills as they make their own choices and decisions about what they want to play with and become competent learners.

Children have equal access to the activities provided. Children are developing their vocabulary because the childminder constantly chats to them warmly for example, as they arrive, while changing their nappies and at meal times. Children are interested in interactive toys and looking at colourful picture books with the childminder. They listen attentively as the childminder reads to them their favourite story 'The Three Billy Goat Gruff' and join in repeating the story line. They are learning about shape and space as they play with shape sorters and fit puzzles. This enables them to develop mathematical skills. Children enjoy playing musical instruments together and listening to nursery rhymes. They are developing early writing skills as they draw, paint and colour. They are investigating resources with different textures and enjoy playing games with the childminder. This helps them to respond to what they see, hear, feel and touch. They get pleasure from outings to child-friendly settings, such as toddler groups and the library. This gives them opportunities to explore new activities and form relationships with other children.

Children's feeling of being secure is enhanced as the childminder provides the daily routine that is familiar. This provides a stable environment and helps children to look forward to their day.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Good partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being. They benefit from the good information which is shared between their parents and the childminder regarding their routine, medical needs, activities and achievements. The childminder ensures that parents know how their children are progressing and developing as she shares information with them verbally on a daily basis. This ensures children experience consistency of care and parents are well informed about the service provided for their child.

Children are content as their individual needs are met effectively by the childminder. They turn to the childminder both for comfort and play. They confidently voice their pleasures and needs.

The childminder is in tune with their needs and meets them affectionately. She encourages their happiness by providing for their individual interests. For example, providing imaginative play materials of their choice. The childminder understands the importance of helping children develop a strong identity and feel good about themselves and others. As a result, children gain self-assurance and confidence. Children's awareness of diversity is increasing as they have access to a selection of books and play materials promoting positive images of the world they live in.

Children are developing their confidence as the childminder praises their efforts and achievements. The young children are encouraged to share and to be caring and considerate to each other. They are learning right from wrong as the childminder uses age appropriate behaviour management strategies which are consistently applied.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well settled in the comfortable environment. Children happily explore their environment because overall, the childminder has taken steps to make her home safe for children. However, further precautions are required to ensure children's safety and security. Children have not been under the childminder's direct supervision at all times.

The childminder has systems in place to maintain the required paperwork for children's care and welfare. However, not all the completed paperwork was accessible for inspection; children's dietary needs are not included on their registration forms; and the accident log does not include the date the accident occurred. All registered providers are obliged to keep records relating to individual children and make them available for inspection at all times.

Since the previous inspection the childminder attended training to update her first aid certificate. She is keen to develop her knowledge and skills to benefit the children, for example, by attending further training.

Children enjoy a warm and secure relationship with the childminder. Children's overall care, learning and welfare are enhanced by the information shared between parents and the childminder. 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 asked to provide suitable seating for children during meal times and include dietary needs on children's registration forms.

Children eat in comfort as they are now provided with suitable seating during meal times. However, children's dietary needs are still not included on their registration forms and this recommendation has been brought forward.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 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):

- ensure the accident record includes the date of the accident
- improve fire safety by ensuring that the fire blanket is appropriately fitted following the manufacturer's instructions; and regularly practise the escape plan with children
- ensure that the boiler is serviced regularly by a reputable engineer
- ensure there are appropriate systems in place for outings and that children are under your direct supervision at all times
- ensure children's registration forms include their dietary needs; and all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible on the premises and available for inspection at all times
- continue to develop knowledge and understanding of childcare to meet children's needs more effectively.

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