



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	138417
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 February 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Bonnett

<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 1999. He lives with his wife in Hayes, in the London borough of Hillingdon. The whole 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 two children under five, both of whom attend part time.

The childminder walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children. He is a member of a local childminding network. The family has a cat.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being looked after in a home that is clean and hygienic. They are beginning to learn the importance of good personal hygiene as they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times. Although the childminder has experience of administering first aid, he does not hold a current first aid certificate. A policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious has not been devised to ensure parents are clear why, and when, their child may be excluded.

Children's physical health is promoted as they regularly walk to the local park, shops and canal. The well-equipped back garden also allows children to enjoy exercise in the open air.

Children enjoy a healthy and nutritious diet. The childminder ensures the meals and snacks provided include fresh fruit and vegetables, and take account of any special dietary needs a child may have. Younger children are monitored to ensure they drink sufficient fluids throughout the day.

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

The provision is good.

Children's safety is promoted as they are able to move around freely in a spacious environment that has no obvious safety hazards. Safety in the event of an emergency is given high priority by the childminder. The emergency escape plan is practised regularly, and smoke alarms, a fire blanket and an extinguisher are in place. Children are beginning to understand the importance of keeping safe on the roads because the childminder demonstrates where, and how, to cross them safely. He also ensures that children hold hands if they are walking.

Children enjoy choosing what they wish to play with from toy boxes stored in the lounge. The choice of play resources is wide and appropriate for their ages. Younger children are able to sleep and eat in comfort and safety as the childminder has appropriate furniture and equipment to meet their needs, such as a travel cot and highchair. All furniture and equipment is in good condition and clean.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's thorough knowledge of child protection matters. For example, he is aware of the indicators of child abuse, and the procedure for reporting concerns.

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

The provision is good.

Children have fun as they play contentedly with a good range of toys and resources. The childminder provides activities to meet the needs of all the children in his care, as well as enabling them to self-select what they wish to play with. He encourages children to recognise their names, and to count. Children's vocabulary is developed as the childminder asks questions

to make them think, and respond appropriately, particularly when watching the ducks on the canal or the trains at the station. The Birth to three matters framework used by the childminder supports children's learning in their earliest years.

Children also enjoy visiting pre-school groups where they have the opportunity to socialise with others. As well as regular visits to local places of interest, children are also taken on trips to the Urban Farm and a bear hunt at Paddington Station to broaden their experiences.

Children are well-settled and relaxed in the childminder's home. The care given is warm and affectionate. Children laugh and squeal with delight as they play games with the minder and his wife.

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

The provision is good.

Children are treated with respect and kindness. In addition, they are gaining self-confidence and trust through the close relationship they develop with the childminder. Children benefit from being in a calm environment. This gentle atmosphere helps to ensure their good behaviour. Any difficulties that may arise are managed using age appropriate and positive methods.

Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are welcome in the childminder's home as he has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare and has gained experience in this field of work. He has a sound understanding of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and is aware of his responsibilities as a service provider.

Children benefit from the effective working relationship the childminder establishes with parents. He recognises the importance of ensuring all relevant information is shared with them on a daily basis to keep them well informed.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children feel comfortable and at ease within a family home environment. They enjoy making good use of the available space in the home. The childminder organises the day to include quiet times indoors and physical exercise outdoors. This helps to ensure the children's overall developmental progress.

Children profit from the good working relationship the childminder enjoys with the parents. He shares all relevant information with them, and respects their wishes. In addition, he has produced a well-presented prospectus containing information about himself and his practice. It is given to parents to ensure that they are aware of the service that they and their child will receive. The health, safety and well-being of the children are promoted by the childminder as he maintains accurate and up-to-date records. However, the attendance register lacks the necessary detail.

Through his frequent attendance on training courses and workshops, the childminder is enhancing his skills and knowledge of a variety of childcare related topics, such as child

protection and Birth to three matters. He is also a member of an approved childminding network and holds a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 in childcare. As a result, the children's experiences in the care of the minder remain positive and in-line with current good-practice.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom he provides.

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

At the last inspection, the childminder was required to ensure the first aid box was appropriately stocked. The childminder now ensures that the contents comply with information given on first aid training courses.

A recommendation from the last inspection was that the childminder provide parents with written information about their child's progress. Regular written up-dates are now supplied. They also include in-depth accounts of their trips out, and what the children have said, seen and done to ensure the parents know how their child is spending their day.

The childminder was also required to increase the range of resources that promote positive images of diversity. Children are now able to develop an understanding of other cultures and faiths within society as they have access to a satisfactory range of resources that give a positive reflection of diversity, such as books and puzzles.

### **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):

- attend first aid training that includes first aid for infants and young children
- devise a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious

- ensure children's surnames are included in the attendance register.

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)