



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	117545
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 April 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Daphne Prescott

<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. She lives with her husband and two children aged 5 and 7 years in Chiswick in the London Borough of Ealing. 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five. The childminder is not registered to provide overnight care.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder

attends the local parent and toddler group.

The family have 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 are cared for in a warm and clean home. The level of hygiene is good and the childminder takes steps to prevent the spread of infection to protect children. For example, she ensures that foods are stored correctly in the fridge and washes fruit before eating. The children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines. They know, for example, that washing hands before eating helps to stop germs from spreading and getting a sore tummy.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. The children are offered healthy foods and drinks throughout their time with the childminder. They enjoy varied and well presented snacks. The children sit at the table for meal times. They eat in a relaxed and social atmosphere, which fosters children's social skills and manners. The childminder discusses all dietary needs and food preferences with parents, to ensure that all children's individual dietary needs are met and that children remain healthy.

The childminder provides good opportunities to develop children's physical skills, such as daily walks, music and dancing sessions and playing outdoor games. She teaches the children the importance of being active with daily exercise. They are beginning to develop a healthy life style and have a positive attitude towards exercise. The children are able to rest and to be active according to their individual needs. As the childminder knows the children very well and is aware of when children need to rest for their well being.

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

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a child focused environment where risks are identified and reduced to safeguard the children. The childminder applies appropriate safety measures to avoid possible dangerous situations. For example, safety gates are in place to prevent unsupervised access to the upstairs areas. She talks to the children to explain safety measures indoors and outdoors. For example, why when climbing the stairs she walks behind them. She teaches them about road safety, and being safe in the park. This means that children are developing an awareness of safety issues and are learning to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

The arrangements for children's sleep and rest have been discussed and agreed with parents to ensure that children's needs are met. The childminder monitors the children's sleep and noise is kept to a minimum for the children's comfort.

Children have very good access to a wide range of good quality toys and equipment, which are appropriate for the age and development. They are safeguarded as the childminder checks the toys and equipment on regular bases to reduce any hazards.

The childminder ensures that the children are well protected. She has good knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. The childminder has attended training to up date her knowledge of reporting any concerns to protect children from any harm.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a very good range of challenging toys and resources that meet the developmental needs of the children attending. As a result, the children are very well stimulated and are very motivated in their learning. Children have formed very good relationships with the childminder, she encourages and gives excellent support in their learning. Children are very enthusiastic in their play and have great fun and enjoy learning through different play activities. For example, children have access to music, dancing and drawing activities which contribute to their creativity.

They showed very good independence in choosing toys and washing their hands. Children have good levels of concentration and persist at activities for extended periods of time. They showed great delight in sitting with the childminder for story time. They listen with enjoyment, and respond to the childminders questions with great confidence. Children are confident communicators, they talk freely with the childminder as she encourages they conversations. They are developing very good social skills and use of language.

Children are able to recall past and present events in their own lives with great excitement and enthusiasm. For example, children talk about the different flowers that they picked while with their family and looking at insects in the garden with the childminder. There are good opportunities presented to them to develop an understanding of the world in which we live in. This contributes to their learning, for example, where different animals live in the world.

The childminder is committed to improving her practice and attends training to enhance her skills and knowledge. She attended a course on activities for the under two's. It is evident that the activities provided for the children attending are effective in supporting their development and learning. For example, younger children are developing and exploring their senses, such as smelling, touching and tasting an orange.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides suitable activities and resources to teach the children positive views and to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the world we

live in. She values each child's individuality and discusses their care and developmental needs with parents. For example, sleep routines, comforters used, and the child's favourite toy. This helps children to settle well and ensure that the appropriate care is given.

Children have developed excellent relationships with the childminder. This is because she acts as a very good role model and treats the children with respect. This is reflected in the children's very good behaviour and motivation to learn. Children feel very good about themselves, because the childminder uses positive praise and encouragement in their daily activities.

Partnership with parents is very good. The childminder has established effective communications with parents both verbal and written. For example, she writes a record of children's daily activities which is shared and discussed with parents. She exchanges information with parents about their child's development and progress.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The environment is well organised. The children have plenty of space to move around freely and play with the different activities provided. Children have good access to toys and resources, and they are enhancing their independence in self selecting their own activities.

Documentation is very well organised. The childminder ensures that all documentation is shared openly with parents and their contributions are valued. Each child has a file containing the appropriate information, such as, contracts and agreements for emergencies. This has a positive impact on the children, it ensures continuity of care and that overall, the needs of all children are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The childminder was recommended to conduct a risk assessment on the garden identifying action to be taken to minimize risks of the sharp concrete edges surrounding the drain and concrete step.

The childminder has reduced the hazard to children when playing outside. New concrete has been fixed around the drain and step, which has helped to safeguard children's safety.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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):

- increase knowledge and understanding of the needs of children under 3, for example, by using the Birth to Three Matters framework.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)