



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY290527
Inspection date	28 April 2005
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 2004. She lives with her mother and her 5 year old son, in Ladbroke Grove in London. The living room and one bedroom of the home are used for childminding. There is no access to an outdoor area but children are regularly taken to the local park.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding two children under 5 years old. She 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 and is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family has no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children thrive in a clean and well-organised environment. Their care needs are well met. For example, the routine is flexible to meet their individual needs for rest and play. Children are developing good physical skills as they enjoy regular outings to the park and local pre-school groups where a wider range of physical activities is available. They have opportunities to climb, balance and slide on outdoor play equipment. The childminder's good understanding of physical development helps children to gain confidence and attain new successes.

Children's good health is promoted as the childminder sustains good levels of hygiene throughout her home. There are good hand washing routines before and after nappy changes and before preparation of food. As a result, this protects children from cross infections. Children do not attend if they are unwell or suffering from infections. Good policies and procedures are in place for first aid, accidents and medication which ensure children, are well cared for.

Children are fed in a warm and relaxing atmosphere therefore they are happy and content. Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks and meals which are provided to meet their individual dietary requirements. They are able to access drinking water independently at any time.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a warm and welcoming home as the childminder has organised the space in her home appropriately. Children rest and sleep in comfort where they feel secure. Suitable and well-maintained equipment is available to meet children's individual needs. For example, child size furniture, a travel cot and a relaxing chair. This means that the children's care needs are well met. The children happily use developmentally appropriate toys. As a result, babies access attractive and colourful toys placed at their level.

Overall, children are able to explore the environment safely as the childminder has limited hazards in her home. However, further precautions are required around the safety of the windows to ensure children are not exposed to unnecessary risks.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has gained knowledge and understanding of her responsibility in child protection. She is currently updating her training in first aid.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Babies have easy access to a range of toys and equipment which promotes their learning and development. They are learning to link words with actions and respond vocally as the childminder chats to them warmly as they wake up, while changing their nappy and while feeding them. They are interested in the interactive toys such as activity centres. They are investigating resources with different textures and enjoy playing games with the childminder. This helps them to make sense of the world and respond to what they see, hear, feel and touch. They get pleasure from outings to child friendly settings such as toddler groups. This gives them opportunities to explore new activities and enjoy relationships with other children.

Older children enjoy drawing, colouring and painting which helps them to develop their early writing skills. They enjoy singing along with the karaoke equipment and dancing to music. They begin to develop their mathematical skills as they count when going upstairs, do puzzles and measure ingredients for cooking activity. However, older children cannot access toys and learning resources with ease. This limits the children's free choice and development of independence skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are content as their individual needs are met by the childminder. Children enjoy care that promotes their well-being. The baby turns to the childminder for both comfort and play. She confidently voices her pleasures and needs. The childminder is in tune with the baby's needs and meets them affectionately. The children's personalities are well understood by the childminder, this means that she is able to encourage 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 to develop a strong identity and feel good about themselves and others. As a result, children gain self-assurance and confidence.

Children are secure and comfortable because parents share information about their child's individual needs, interests and experiences with the childminder at the outset of childminding arrangements. Children receive consistent care as there is a daily exchange of information with parents about the children's day. The childminder is attentive to children's needs. As a result, the children are happy.

Children are developing their confidence as the childminder praises their efforts. This encourages them to try new activities in a safe and supportive environment.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder. The childminder remains suitably qualified and experienced to work with young children. The childminding

environment is generally well organised. However, she needs to improve the organisation of toys and learning resources to sustain children's interest. She is warm and affectionate towards the children who are relaxed and happy in her care. Their individual needs are met through flexible routines.

The childminder is keen to develop her knowledge and skills to benefit the children. For example, by attending the course Birth to Three Matters and by updating her First Aid training.

All records and documentation are well organised and maintained. This contributes to the safe and efficient management of the childminding provision and to promote the welfare and care of the children. This means that overall, the needs of the children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the childminder's first inspection and therefore this section of the report is not applicable.

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 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):

- improve the safety of the windows to protect children from possible harm
- organise toys and resources to enable children to access these with ease and develop their independence skills

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:

