

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	138884
<b>Inspection date</b>	23 April 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Keriann Belcher
<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 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 1997. She lives with her husband and daughter aged 14 years in Ruislip in the London borough of Hillingdon. All 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 six children at various times of the day.

The childminder walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family have goldfish and a cat. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming family home. Their health is safeguarded as the childminder maintains good hygiene standards in her home. Children are learning the

routines for satisfactory hygiene practices as they wash their hands before meals. However, the children all use the same towel which reduces the prevention of cross infection. Effective systems are in place for managing accidents and administering medication. In addition, the childminder has a valid first aid certificate to enable her to effectively treat children in an emergency, should the need arise.

Children enjoy nutritious meals because the childminder understands the importance of providing a healthy diet to maintain their growth and development. Menus are planned to ensure that individual dietary needs are catered for. Meals include freshly made Shepherd's pie, as well as fresh fruit and vegetables. At meal times children sit and eat comfortably at the table and they enjoy sociable times together as they all sit and chat together about their day developing children's social skills. Children are offered and are able to access drinking water independently at any time so that they are not thirsty.

Children enjoy a very good range of outdoor activities which contribute to their good health. They are provided with activities to help them develop their physical skills. For example, they have opportunities to run around and play in the garden or bouncy on the trampoline. They enjoy many outings to the local park, seaside and activity centres where they benefit from plenty of fresh air and exercise.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is very welcoming for children. Children have access to a good range of toys and equipment which are in good condition. Their independence is fostered by enabling them make choices about what they wish to play with or activities to do. The toys are easily accessible as they are stored in boxes at a low level in the lounge.

Children are well-supervised and cannot leave the premises unattended. She has devised a detailed fire evacuation plan which has been practised with the children to ensure that they are familiar with the procedure. However, there is not a smoke alarm on each level of the house to alert them in the event of a fire. Older children learn the rules for their own safety and that of others through the setting of clear boundaries and the input of the childminder. For example, she talks to children about road safety rules when out in the community.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder understands her role with regard to child protection and she has attended relevant training and information workshops to enhance her knowledge.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well-settled in the care of the childminder. The affection and warmth given by her enables them to develop a sense of belonging and trust, so that they become confident to express their needs and wishes. She demonstrates a good awareness of the children's individual needs and uses this knowledge in ensuring that each child in her care is cared for well. She interacts positively with the children, responding to questions, engaging them in conversation about their day's activities, which encourages their language development and social skills.

They play enthusiastically with a good range of toys and resources that promote their learning in a variety of areas. For example, children play in the sandpit with small dinosaurs or an

imaginary game of "schools". Because the children interact well together, they particularly enjoy playing games together, becoming absorbed in their game as they have great fun.

Children have the opportunity to socialise with others through regular attendance at a local toddler group. They also benefit from outings to the travel agent and pet shop which is linked to topics which broaden their play and learning experiences.

Children are happy and content in the care of the childminder as she has good nurturing skills. For example, babies individual feeding and sleeping routines are followed. The childminder ensures she gives sufficient time to play and talk with babies enabling them to progress in all areas of their development.

The childminder spends time with the children developing children's pre-reading skills as she has labelled objects around the rooms, such as the table, fire surround as well as the toy boxes with their relevant contents.

Children have good opportunities to use their creative skills as they paint, stick and play with a variety of creative materials such as clay or cornflour mixture.

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

The provision is good.

The children are relaxed and happy at the childminder's home. Children are valued and their individual needs are met because the childminder spends time getting to know them well. The childminder provides a range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increases children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. For example, the children made a collage Chinese Dragon for Chinese New Year and cooked hot cross buns for Easter.

As children are fully engaged in meaningful play, their behaviour is good. They have a good understanding of the boundaries and they know what is expected of them. For example the children know they must ask to leave the table before getting down and that good manners are encouraged. The childminder uses age-appropriate and positive strategies to manage any difficulties that may arise. Children's achievements are valued as the childminder gives them lots of praise and encouragement which builds their self-esteem. For example, she gives the children good praise when they have carried out a request or finished their dinner.

The childminder has a system to record complaints and an adequate understanding of sharing any concerns with parents about her care. However, details of a previous complaint have not been recorded.

Children receive the appropriate care as the childminder discusses and records individual care arrangements with parents. Children are very happy and content because the childminder has very good relationships with the parents. They work well together to meet their child's individual care and developmental needs. Parents are kept well informed about children's learning and general wellbeing. The childminder's policies and procedures are signed by parents confirming that these have been discussed with them, which supports children's safety and welfare. The parents have written cards of appreciation about the service the childminder has provided when leaving her care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and confident as they receive lots of warm individual attention to promote their emotional wellbeing. Children spend their time effectively, engaging in a good range of activities. Daily routines flow smoothly and routines are well organised to allow children to play and learn without interruption. Toys and resources are easily accessible to help children choose for themselves and as a result children are developing good independence.

Overall, the childminder takes steps to reduce hazards both inside and outdoors, but the fire safety precautions need to be improved to ensure children are alerted in the event of a fire. Generally the children benefit from the steps the childminder takes to reduce cross infection but they do not have an individual method to dry their hands.

Documentation is generally well organised. The childminder keeps most of the required records that contribute to children's health, safety and wellbeing, which are shared with parents. Children receive continuity of care as their routines and achievements are shared between the childminder and parents. Children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder as she has good knowledge and understanding of caring for children. 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 keep a record of children's attendance. She is now recording the actual times of arrival and departure of the children to ensure an accurate record is available of the times the children are in her care. She was also, asked to obtain knowledge and understanding of managing a wide range of children's behaviour in a way that promotes their welfare and development. The childminder has attended training and workshops on this subject which ensures she has a wider understanding of managing children's behaviour.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there has been one complaint made to Ofsted that required the provider to take action to meet the National Standards. The complaint related to National Standard 11: Behaviour. Concerns were raised that the provider used inappropriate language and remarks as part of her behaviour management strategy. A visit was made by Ofsted and an action was set under National Standard 2: Organisation. As a result the provider has developed a attendance register. Ofsted is satisfied with the action the provider took to address the concerns raised. The provider remained qualified for registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by the parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted. The provider has not recorded all complaints made to Ofsted by parents.

## 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 fire safety precautions by ensuring that a smoke alarm is located on each level of the house
- improve children's hygiene routines to prevent cross infection
- formalise the system to record complaints relating to the national standards and any action taken

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)