

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	149822
Inspection date	01 June 2007
Inspector	Sylvia Dindar
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2002 and is registered to care for six children under eight years there are currently ten children on roll. She lives with her two older children who are over eight. They live in a house in Isleworth, close to transport links.

The whole of the house is available for childminding but the main area for play in the lounge diner. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. Minded children are taken to local pre-schools clubs, parks, shops and places of interest.

The household pet is an aquarium.

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 promoted as they regularly enjoy a range of physical activities both indoor and outdoors. For example, they regularly visit local parks where they can swing and climb, they visit local toddler groups where they are able to access ride-on toys and soft play centres where they learn to balance can test their own physical skills. They enjoy times in the garden providing them with yet another form of exercise and fresh air. The childminder is mindful of the sun's harmful rays and requests parents to provide sun creams and with their consents she applies this liberally to stop children from burning. A gazebo is used to provide shade in the garden.

Children enjoy a healthy and nutritious diet, food is freshly prepared and children are encouraged to try new foods. Parents are consulted about their child's diet and all information is acted upon so that children are fed in line with their parent's wishes. Children learn good hygiene practice from the childminder's regular routines. They are encouraged to wash their hands after playing outside, after toileting and before meals. However, they are not provided with separate towels which leave them at some risk of cross infection. A sick child policy is in place and shared with parents so that they are well informed of the procedures to follow and the childminder's responsibility to protect all children's health. Good systems are in place for the safe administration of medication. All accidents are clearly recorded and first aid is available as the childminder has current training in first aid.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are at ease in the childminder home they can access toys independently as they are stored in low boxes to allow children free choice. They have access to a wide range of play provision and equipment that is suitable for their age and stage of development these are regularly rotated to ensure children are kept well stimulated. The childminder has a common sense approach to safety and has risk assessed her home. Most hazards have been identified and addressed, however, a risk remains when children are playing on the decking area at the end of the garden. Children are at risk of falling as there is no fencing and there is a considerable drop to the lawn area. Toys are regularly checked to ensure that they are safe and in good condition and age appropriate. Children play in an environment that is secure, for example, the childminder bolts the garden gate when children are in the garden and the front door is kept locked with the keys kept up high but available for emergencies. A fire evacuation procedure is practised with children to ensure that they can quickly and safely be evacuated in an emergency. The childminder is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and systems are in place to ensure children are safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed and respond to the childminder warm and nurturing ways. She listens well to what they say giving them positive praise and encouragement. Children are confident ask for the things they want. The childminder plans her day around the children's needs for example, sleep times and children's social arrangements such as parties. Children are provided with a wide range of interesting activities. The childminder is aware that older children

need to have space and time to explore and be imaginative. In order for children to do this she has set up a range of home corner equipment in the garden that children easily access and children pretend to have a picnic, the childminder observes from a distance and children are absorbed in their play. Children enjoy a range of creative activities; they make cards for their friends and enjoy painting and colouring. They construct with a range of bricks and enjoy doing puzzles. Children enjoy regular outings where they learn to be sociable. For example, the childminder takes them for lunch at a café. They meet up with other childminders at the local groups and share equipment and toys. Children learn to count as the childminder uses every day experiences such as count the stairs, they learn to recognise the numbers on the buses and this learning is re-enforced as the childminder displays number poster at home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit as the childminder has a good understanding of child development and has systems in place to support children and their parents if they require additional help. She understands that through providing a wide range of resources, activities can be adapted to ensure all children can take part. The childminder has recently completed a signing course and as a matter of course she is encouraging all children to learn this through play.

Children flourish because they are valued and respected. They behave well as they know what is expected of them and are given clear boundaries. This makes children feel secure. The rules of the house are based on respect for one and other and their belongings as well as children's safety. A range of strategies are in place and agreed with parents so that children get consistent messages.

Children benefit from the sound business relationship the childminder builds with parents. A range of well thought out policies are shared with them so that they understand what the childminder can provide and what she expects in return of parents. For parents whose children are under three years old she provides development records and asks them to contribute information to this record. In addition to this the childminder provides a verbal hand over to each parent at the end of the day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The organisation of the setting is very good and contributes to positive outcomes for children. The environment is clean and organised to ensure children's individual needs are met. The routine is organised to include quiet times, active times, snack times and outings. As a result, children are secure in the childminders care.

All of the required documentation and parental consents for the safe and efficient management of the setting and for the welfare and care of children are maintained correctly. A back up plan is in place and another childminder has been identified so that children are well cared for in an emergency.

The childminder demonstrates an excellent commitment to provide quality childcare, for example, she continues to access short courses to update her knowledge and skills and build on her experience as a mother and as childminder. She has a relevant qualification in first aid. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides

Improvements since the last inspection

Since last inspection the childminder had devised and agreed an emergency plan with another childminder which provides support and care for children should a child need one to one emergency care.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 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 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):

- ensure that the decking area is safe for children.
- provide children with separate towels

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