

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	161119
Inspection date	18 July 2007
Inspector	Christine Bonnett

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 was registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged 11 years and six years, in Eastcote in the London borough of Hillingdon. The ground floor of the house is mainly used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding five children under five. One child attends full time and the others attend on a part time basis. She also minds three children over five years, all of whom attend on a part time basis.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She runs two childminder support groups and is a member of an approved childminding network. The family has a hamster as a pet.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted very well. The childminder understands the importance of ensuring children enjoy a healthy diet to maintain their growth and development. As a result of attending a training workshop, she has reviewed her menus to ensure healthy and nutritious meals are served that also take account of children's individual dietary needs. The menu includes shepherd's pie, yogurts, fresh fruit and vegetables. Drinks are readily available for children. A social occasion is created at meal times as children sit together around the dining table. Physical development is encouraged as children have access to the back garden for play, and also regularly walk to the school. They are learning that exercise is fun and good for staying healthy.

The childminder has a policy in place informing parents that she will not childmind children who are ill. However, it does not include the type of illness that may cause a child to be excluded from her care, or for how long, to protect the health of others and to enable parents to make alternative arrangements.

Children benefit from being in a clean and hygienic environment. Individual flannels and towels are provided for each child to prevent the risk of cross infection between them. A picture above the basin in the bathroom reminds children to wash their hands after using the toilet. To further promote the health of children, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate, and has procedures in place to manage accidents and administer first aid.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is important to the childminder. She checks her home and garden regularly to ensure there are no potential hazards. Priority is also given to making sure children will be safe in an emergency. The fire service has checked the home and approved the emergency escape plan. The plan is also practised regularly to ensure children will be taken to safety quickly in the event of an emergency. In addition, the childminder uses a Traffic Club pack to support children's practical learning of how and where to cross the road safely when they are outdoors.

Children's welfare is also safeguarded by the childminder's secure understanding of child protection matters. She is aware of the signs and symptoms that could indicate a child was being abused, and has attended child protection training to keep up-to-date with procedures to follow to report concerns.

Children benefit from being looked after in a welcoming family home. As well as the spacious lounge to play in, children have access to a conservatory that is equipped as a playroom. It contains a wide range of play materials to promote progress in all areas of development, as well as being fun to use. Many items are set-out attractively for the children to play with. However, children's independence is also promoted as they are able to help themselves to more resources stored in accessible units. Furniture such as a highchair and travel cot are used by younger children to ensure they are comfortable and safe. All play equipment and furniture is clean and in good condition.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well settled and content in the care of the childminder. They play enthusiastically with a wealth of toys and resources that provide stimulation and fun. Particular favourites are cooking and planting sun flower seeds. The childminder encourages younger children to recognise colours and to count, such as when selecting apples in the supermarket.

Children enjoy attending childminder support groups where they have the opportunity to socialise with others. They also attend a weekly music group to broaden their experiences. During school holidays outings are made to places of interest, such as Ruislip Lido, the zoo and cinema.

Younger children are confident and relaxed. They demonstrate this by playing happily on their own, either with toys on the floor, or making-up their own game in the 'play kitchen'. The childminder understands how children learn, and knows when to let them explore by themselves, and when to step in and extend their play by talking and suggesting ideas.

Children are given kind and gentle care by the childminder. The interaction between them is warm and affectionate, consequently, children feel secure and able to express their needs and wishes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children profit because the childminder understands the importance of working in partnership with parents. Before a child starts in her care, the parent is asked to visit with their child on several occasions, and is also asked to attend the weekly groups with her. By doing so, parents have the opportunity to see the minder working in her home, and know the places their child will be visiting during the week. This helps to establish a sense of trust and honesty between them, which ultimately helps the child to settle. In addition, when the child is left in the childminder's care, all relevant information is exchanged in writing or verbally each day to ensure parents are kept well informed.

Children are developing a positive view of the wider world and increasing their awareness of diversity within society as a range of world faith festivals are acknowledged, such as Diwali and Christmas. The childminder has a good understanding of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, and is aware of her responsibilities as a service provider under the Act to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

By using positive methods to manage behaviour children are learning right and wrong in ways they understand. In addition, children are also learning the boundaries of acceptable conduct within the home as 'house rules' are applied consistently, for example, taking off shoes and not climbing on furniture. This adds to children's feelings of security, as they know what is expected of them.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a well-organised environment. It allows them space to fully explore the play equipment in hygienic and safe conditions. The childminder also 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 childminder's commitment to enhancing her skills and knowledge. She frequently attends workshops covering topics such as child protection and health & safety. In addition, she is a member of an approved childminding network, and has completed the Developing Childminding Practice (DCP) course and the Extending Childminding Practice (ECP) course. As a result, the children's experiences in the care of the childminder remain positive and in-line with current good-practice.

Children's well-being is further promoted as all required documentation is maintained and policies and procedures used effectively. The childminder has produced a folder containing detailed information about herself, her family and her practice. It is made available to parents to ensure that they are aware of the service that they and their child will receive. The efficient organisational skills of the childminder ensure she is able to provide places for a number of children whilst adhering to her registration conditions. Consequently, 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 required to improve the safety of children by ensuring written permission is obtained from parents to seek medical treatment for their child in the event of an emergency. Permission is now obtained, and taken on any outings so that it is readily available, if required.

The childminder was also required to increase her resources that reflect positive images of diversity. The range now includes dolls with different skin tones, puzzles and multicultural books.

A further requirement from the last inspection was to ensure that all records were maintained and readily accessible for inspection, including log of incidents. All records are organised efficiently, and available for inspection. A log of incidents is maintained to ensure up-to-date and accurate are kept relating to any incidents that may arise.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 there have been two complaints. Concerns were raised in relation to National Standard 2; Organisation, National Standard 6; Safety; National Standard 7; Health and National Standard 13; Child Protection. On both occasions Ofsted visited the provider. As a result, actions were raised in order for the provider to meet the National Standards. These related to National Standard 6; Safety, relating to the supervision of children, National Standard 12; Working in Partnership with Parents, relating to maintaining a record of complaints, National standard 13; Child Protection, ensuring correct child protection procedures are followed, and National Standard 14; Documentation, relating to maintaining an attendance register. The childminder has carried out all the actions, and remains qualified for registration.

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):

- amend the sick child policy to include illnesses that may exclude children, and for how long.

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