

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138507
Inspection date	26 July 2007
Inspector	Helen Ann Woods

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 January 1994. She lives with her husband and adult son in a house situated in Harefield which is in the London Borough of Hillingdon. It is close to schools, public transport and local amenities. The childminder is registered to look after six children under eight years of whom three may be aged under five years and of these one may be under one year. Currently there are four children on roll. The ground floor is mainly used for childminding with a bathroom and one bedroom for sleeping if needed on the first floor. She has a fully enclosed rear garden for physical play. There are no pets kept.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder promotes children's health by encouraging healthy eating and helping them to enjoy physical exercise. Children have regular opportunities to take part in physical activities such as walking to the local school, visiting parks and when playing out in the large garden. Children have space to run, climb and ride bikes.

Healthy foods are discussed with the parents if they are providing the meals and the children are encouraged to think about why some foods are good and some are bad. Children do not eat processed foods or have fizzy drinks. They can help themselves to drinks when they want as they have their own non-spill cups.

The childminder minimises the risk of cross infection to children through good practice and clear health policies. She keeps her home very clean and teaches the children the importance of washing their hands regularly, in particular, after using the toilet.

She adheres to parents' wishes and ensures that any dietary and medical needs are clearly recorded on the children's records. The childminder obtains written permission for emergency procedures and holds a current first aid certificate to safeguard children's welfare.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's close supervision of children maintains their safety. The home is well maintained, clean and welcoming to children and their families. She keeps areas of the home secure and ensures safety equipment is in place to minimise risks.

A clear child protection policy safeguards children's welfare and the childminder shares this with parents. She has a good understanding of all issues and is aware of the appropriate procedures to follow.

Children are cared for in a secure, safe and welcoming environment. They use a wide variety of good quality play equipment that is checked for safety and is appropriate for their stage of development. Good organisation of toys in an uncluttered environment means that children can safely access activities, toys and equipment.

When out walking children are well behaved and taught road safety. Parents have commented on how well the children are managed when walking to and from school.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted, for example the childminder holds a current paediatric first aid certificate.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and enable them to be self confident. The childminder provides a broad range of rich and stimulating opportunities for children to investigate and explore their environment. Children's early communication skills are well fostered because the childminder spends lots of time talking to them and acknowledging their efforts to speak. They have access to a very good range of books that familiarise the children with other cultures and with people who have disabilities.

Singing songs, painting and playing with play dough allows children to explore creativity and develop their imagination. They have the opportunity for daily walks and visits to school, local parks and visiting the 'Dogs Trust'. They regularly go to toddler groups where they mix with different children and adults.

Children involve the childminder in their play and they receive lots of warm, individual attention, which enables them to successfully extend their learning and experiences. The childminder has a sound knowledge of child development. This means that children's personal, social and emotional development is well supported.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder understands her role in helping children to gain understanding of acceptable ways to behave. She promotes awareness of good manners by making a point of using 'please' and 'thank-you' herself in her dealings with children and they benefit from her calm and gentle approach. Children's developing confidence and self-esteem is fostered by the childminder's use of praise and positive language.

Children mix socially with others encouraging them to learn respect for differing cultures and abilities. She regularly visits the library and has introduced the children to sign language. The childminder's good understanding of children's learning and developmental needs ensures she meets any child's learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The childminder and parents form a close working relationship that ensures continuity of care for children. The childminder has an informal discussion every day to exchange information about the children's day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has several years experience of working with children and families in different capacities and has attended different training courses which support her in her role. She has a positive attitude to childminding and has identified areas for her own development to improve her practice and service, and thus benefit children and parents.

The children feel at home and at ease within the well organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Children use all available play space both inside and outside the home.

Required documentation and other relevant records which promote children's welfare and contribute to the efficient and safe management of the provision are in place and well-organised. She regularly shares them with parents although the recording of any concerns does not always ensure confidentiality. The childminder keeps parents well informed about the care that is provided.

The childminder meets the needs for the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that good hygiene practices were in place when toileting the children. The childminder ensures children learn the importance of washing their hands regularly, in particular, after using the toilet. As a result the children's health and well being has been enhanced.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the 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 the recording of concerns maintains confidentiality.

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