

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138509
Inspection date	24 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 1998. She lives with her husband, three adult children and one child aged 13, in Ruislip Gardens, 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five years and two children over five years. All attend on a part time basis.

The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family has no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted as they spend their day in a clean environment. They are able to play comfortably on the floor with no risk to their health. The childminder encourages children

to learn good self-care skills, such as washing their hands at appropriate times throughout the day. However, children's health may be compromised by the risk of cross-infection as they share a towel in the bathroom.

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. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate, and also has effective procedures in place to manage accidents and administer medication to safeguard the welfare of the children.

Children enjoy a range of nutritious snacks supplied by the childminder that take account of their individual dietary needs. Raw vegetables, fresh and dried fruit are given during the day, along with water or juice to drink. Currently, parents provide their child's lunches. Good opportunities are available for children to benefit from physical exercise. The back garden provides a safe place to play, and the local park is visited regularly.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is promoted as the childminder is safety conscious and has eliminated any obvious hazards from her home and garden. Seat belts and restraints appropriate for the size and weight of the children are used in the car. In addition, keeping children safe when out walking is also important to the childminder. She shows them how and where to cross roads safely, and to lookout for the 'green man'.

Children have ample space to play within the comfortable family home. A wide range of play resources are available to enable children to make progress in all areas of development. Children's independence is encouraged as they may either ask for items to play with, or select them for themselves.

Children welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of child protection matters. She is aware of the signs and symptoms a child may exhibit that could indicate they were being abused, and the procedure to follow to report such concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the care of the childminder. They laugh and have fun as they relate well to her and her family. The childminder understands how young children learn and encourages them to develop and enhance their listening and language skills by talking, singing and looking at books with them. Children respond with obvious pleasure and enthusiasm to familiar rhymes and action songs, such as 'old MacDonald had a farm' and 'row row your boat'. Resources are also provided that encourage manipulative skills such as shape sorters and puzzles. The Birth to three matters framework used by the childminder supports children's learning in their earliest years.

The affectionate and gentle care given by the childminder enables children to develop a sense of belonging and trust. Praise is also given regularly to enable children to develop confidence and good self-esteem. Because children are well settled, they are content to play on their own, for example, engaging in imaginative play with dolls and a push chair. The childminder is skilled

in knowing when to allow the children to explore the play resources independently, and when to step in to support them and extend their play.

Children enjoy playing in the back garden, where they have access to a range of play equipment including a slide and see-saw, to develop their physical skills. They also benefit from routine trips to the park and shops to broaden their experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's behaviour is very good. Age appropriate and positive strategies, such as distracting the child and explaining the difficulty, are used to manage any situations that may arise. Consequently, children are learning right and wrong in ways they understand.

Children benefit from the good working relationship the childminder establishes with parents. She ensures she keeps them informed of how their child has spent their day, and discusses any potential difficulties with them to ensure the arrangement runs smoothly.

Children have access to wide range of resources that enable them to learn and understand about diversity within society. These include multicultural puzzles and a book that depicts people with different abilities. The childminder would welcome the opportunity to childmind a child with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She has a sound understanding of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the responsibilities the Act imposes upon service providers.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel comfortable and at ease within the childminders home. The day is organised by the childminder to ensure children have the opportunity to play quietly indoors and more actively outside. This helps to ensure the children's overall developmental progress.

Children enjoy making good use of the available space in the home. Each end of the ground floor is used for a different purpose at the same time. This ensures the immediate needs of all the children, whatever their ages, can be comfortably met.

Children's health, safety and well-being are promoted by the childminder as she maintains accurate and up-to-date records. She also retains the records of children who have left her care. The effective working relationship with the parents also adds to children's sense of well-being and contentment. Therefore, 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 increase the safety of children by practising the emergency escape plan with them. The plan is now discussed with the children and is practised with them to ensure they are able to leave the home quickly and safely, in the event of an emergency. In addition, a visual reminder of the plan is displayed for children to see to further enhance their safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- improve the sick child policy to ensure all required details are included
- improve hygiene standards in the bathroom to prevent the risk of cross-infection.

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