

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	117753
Inspection date	18 July 2007
Inspector	Kim Mundy
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 1995. She lives with her two adult children in the London borough of Ealing. The whole of the ground floor, two upstairs bedrooms and toilet facilities are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have a pet cat.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and she is currently caring for four children under five and two children over five before and after school. She walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/ toddler group and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's well-being is promoted positively. All of the required policies and procedures are in place for medication administration and accidents, and parent consent for emergency treatment is sought. Children receive suitable treatment in the event of an accident because the childminder

holds a current first aid certificate. They are learning good hygiene practices as they are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet .

Children enjoy lots of fresh air and they have fun as they participate in a wide range of physical activities. They smile as they play musical instruments and dance to music. Children benefit from outings to the park and toddler group where they are able to socialise with other peers and widen their play experiences.

Parents provide packed lunches for their child and the childminder provides healthy snacks such as fresh fruit. Meal times are sociable as the childminder sits and chats with the children, offering support to help them feed themselves as required. Children can help themselves to drinking water throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, well maintained and welcoming home. There is a good range of suitable furniture and equipment to meet their individual needs, for example, travel cot, high chair and nappy changing facilities. Children play enthusiastically with a good range of developmentally appropriate toys which are placed at their level.

The childminder carries out a daily visual risk assessment of the premises to ensure children are able to play in a safe environment. For example, stair gates prevent access to the stairs and kitchen. A suitable fire evacuation procedure is practised with the children, although there is no written record of these and the fire blanket is not appropriately accessible in the event of a fire. As a result, children's safety is not fully promoted. Children learn how to keep themselves safe by explanations given by the childminder throughout the day and they learn about road safety when going for walks. Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's good understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are attracted to the toys and activities on arrival because the childminder takes their individual interests into account when setting up age and stage appropriate toys. They are happily exploring their surroundings as they play with a good range of toys and resources which help them to make progress in all areas of learning.

Children enjoy listening to a range of suitable stories such as 'Karen and the little lost kitten'. They are developing their early writing and creative skills as they draw, stick, paint and use play dough. Children are increasing their vocabulary as the childminder asks lots of questions and offers suggestions to extend their thinking.

Children engage in imaginative play with tea sets and dolls. They concentrate as they play with small world toys such as buses and cars. The childminder encourages children to recognise their name, shapes, colours and numbers. Children participate in a wider range of activities at local pre-school groups, for example, sand and water play. They are having lots of fun whilst learning through play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have close relationships with the childminder and they seek comfort and support during their play. They are well cared for as the childminder knows them really well. Children are developing self-esteem as their individual needs are met. There is a good range of resources to help children learn about diversity and the world in which they live.

The childminder manages behaviour in a positive way by giving children praise and encouragement to share and take turns. Children are developing their confidence as the childminder praises their efforts when trying new activities.

Good partnership with parents and carers contributes significantly to the children's well-being. The childminder provides very clear and informative verbal feedback about the children's routines and activities. She develops policies and procedures which are shared with parents to provide this good childminding service.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare, care and development needs are met very effectively as the childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of caring for young children. They are relaxed and happy in the childminder's care as she is warm and affectionate towards them. The childminder is very organised and she develops her knowledge and skills by attending courses, for example, communication and assertiveness training.

All of the required documentation is in place and it is well organised and maintained. The childminder organises her day so she is able to give the children plenty of support, attention and encouragement. The children are having a lovely time whilst in the childminder's care. 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 ensure the documentation includes the children's hours of attendance. An accurate record of children's attendance is now kept to support children's safety.

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):

- keep a record of fire evacuations and install the fire blanket following the manufacturer's instructions.

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