

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138912
Inspection date	04 July 2007
Inspector	Victoria Vasiliadis
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1997. She lives with her husband, two adult children and one school age child. They live in a residential area of Northwood, in the borough of Hillingdon close to local parks and shops. The downstairs of the home is mainly used for childminding purposes, there is a garden available for outdoor play.

She is registered to care for a maximum of five children. However, no children under eight years are currently on roll and no children were present at the time of the inspection.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder is aware of the importance of fresh air and exercise, as a means of promoting the health and well-being of the children. Through discussion she was able to demonstrate a variety of activities that will allow the children regular opportunities to use their large motor skills. For example, play in the garden with bats, balls, swing ball and scooters or going for walks to the park or library.

The childminder understands how to meet the individual needs of the children when providing food and drink. She is aware that she must work with the parents in order to find out if children have any allergies or if there are any religious needs that must be respected. She has a clear understanding of how to promote healthy eating. Some of the foods which she offers to children include sandwiches with a selection of fillings, lasagne with vegetables or spaghetti bolognaise.

The childminder ensures the home is clean and warm. Through discussion she was able to demonstrate a sound understanding of effective hygiene procedures. For example, children do not attend the setting if they are unwell with an infectious illness.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The home is comfortably furnished and equipped to ensure the individual needs of the children are met. The childminder has a good selection of equipment in place to support the differing ages and needs of children. She has organised her home with the child in mind.

The childminder provides children with a selection of resources that are developmentally appropriate and interesting. She safeguards children's welfare and has the required procedures and documents in place. For example, the childminder has a good understanding of the child protection procedures to follow if abuse is suspected and she holds a valid first aid certificate.

Through discussion with the childminder she was able to demonstrate an understanding of how to keep children safe, she has also taken positive steps to ensure the home is safe for children. For instance, a fire blanket is correctly located in the kitchen, low-level cupboards are fitted with locks and smoke alarms are fitted to each level of the home.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides children with a wide range of resources that offer sufficient challenges in order to extend their learning and development. For example, there are a selection of games, puzzles, construction resources, sand and water and creative materials available.

The childminder has organised her resources so that children can easily access them, they are stored in boxes on the floor and in low-level cupboards. The boxes are clearly labelled enabling children to access resources as they wish. The childminder is keen to remind children to tidy away the toys before getting out more, this helps the children to understand the importance of looking after and caring for their toys.

Through discussion, the childminder is able to demonstrate a clear understanding of the importance of fun in children's learning and development. She is aware of the places of interest within her locality such as parks, Ruislip Lido, toddler groups and the library. She uses these experiences in order to further the children's enjoyment and fun whilst in her care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has appropriate procedures in place to manage children's behaviour, these are consistent with the different ages and development of children. Through discussion, the childminder was able to demonstrate an understanding of the needs of children, whilst ensuring parents' views are sought.

The childminder provides opportunities for children to access resources that promote a positive view of the wider world such as puzzles, dolls, books and creative materials. Through discussion she shows a good understanding of how she will meet the needs of all children.

The childminder has effective systems in place to promote good working relationships with parents and carers. For instance, she has an informative folder with her written policies and procedures that is shared with new parents. She will talk to parents and carers at the beginning and end of each day, in order to share information with them about their child. This contributes to children's well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The premises are well organised. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. The childminder has comprehensive written policies and procedures in place which contribute to children's health and safety. The childminder was able to demonstrate effectively how she would deal with complaints. However, she is not familiar with the content of the amendments to the National Standards in relation to complaints.

The childminder has sound systems in place to promote positive working relationships with parents and carers, this contributes to the well-being of children and continuity of care. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was required to maintain a record of injuries sustained to children outside of childminding hours. She now maintains a log of any existing injuries children arrive to her with and ensures parents sign entries. This supports partnership with parents and the welfare of the children.

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

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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):

- develop knowledge of the complaints procedures as stipulated in the revised criteria to the National Standards for Childminding.

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