

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118008
Inspection date	23 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 satisfactory. 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 1993. She lives with her husband in Hanwell, in the London borough of Ealing. 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 one child under five years and one child over five years. Both children 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 play in an environment that is clean, and therefore does not expose them to any health hazards. The childminder uses good hygiene practices when she changes children's nappies, and also teaches children the importance of adopting good self-care practices. For example,

individual flannels are supplied for children to use to prevent the risk of cross-infection when they wash their hands after using the toilet and before meals. A healthy lifestyle is also promoted as children have good opportunities for physical exercise outdoors, either in the garden or at the park.

The childminder understands the importance of preventing illness spreading by excluding children who are unwell from her care. However, she does not have a clear policy in place to share with parents to inform them of the type of illness that may exclude their child, or for how long. Sun-screen is applied to children by the childminder to protect them from over-exposure to the sun, but written permission is not obtained from parents to do so, to ensure they are aware of the childminder's practice.

Healthy and nutritious snacks, that take account of children's individual dietary needs, are given to children. The selection includes fruit, vegetable sticks and plain biscuits. Parents currently supply their child's lunches and the childminder ensures they are stored appropriately before serving.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is protected, as the childminder has taken steps to eliminate all obvious hazards from her home and garden. Safety in the event of a fire is given priority as smoke alarms and a fire blanket are appropriately located. An escape plan from the home has been devised, but not practised with children to ensure they could leave the home quickly and safely, in the event of an emergency.

Children have access to a range of play equipment that is appropriate for their ages and provides stimulation and fun. Children's independence is promoted as they help themselves to play equipment from boxes located in the hall. The contents of the boxes are changed regularly with other items stored elsewhere. This ensures children's interest is retained and they have variety. There is sufficient space in the lounge to allow children to play comfortably. All the play equipment and furniture, such as a highchair and stair gate, are clean and in good condition.

Children welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a sound understanding of the signs and symptoms that could indicate a child was being abused. She is clear that children's welfare is paramount and concerns must be reported. However, she is less clear about how to report child abuse concerns, and to whom, to ensure their protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed and content in the care of the childminder. They arrive happily and settle quickly into their play. They particularly enjoy making up their own imaginative play scenarios, such as visiting the hairdressers.

The childminder looks at books with the children, and encourages their vocabulary as she asks them questions to make them think and respond appropriately.

The childminder is kind and caring towards the children. The warm interaction between her and the children enables them to develop confidence, self esteem and the ability to express their individual needs.

Children enjoy regular trips to local parks, such as Walpole and Gunnersbury, to broaden their experiences. They also have opportunities to make cakes and visit the shops.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs, such as rest and meal times are discussed with parents and incorporated into the routine of the day. Children benefit because the childminder understands the importance of working in partnership with parents. She exchanges all relevant information about their child with them each day to ensure consistency of care. Although the childminder encourages parents to discuss any potential difficulties with her, or concerns about the care she gives, parents are not made aware that they may address concerns to Ofsted. In addition, the childminder does not have a system in place for investigating and recording complaints.

Children generally behave well. Age-appropriate and positive strategies are used to manage any behavioural difficulties that may arise. Children learn the boundaries for acceptable behaviour as the childminder applies them consistently. Consequently, children's sense of security is increased, and the concept of right and wrong is being reinforced in ways they understand.

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 sound 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.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel comfortable and at ease within a family home environment. They make good use of the available play space. The childminder is well organised in her daily routine to meet the needs of the children in her care, such as school pick-ups and ensuring she is at home when children whose hours vary arrive. In addition, the childminder organises the day to include quiet times indoors and physical exercise outdoors. This helps to ensure the children's overall developmental progress.

Children benefit from the effective working relationship the childminder enjoys with the parents. Children's health, safety and well-being are also fostered as accurate and up-to-date records are maintained.

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 obtain play materials that reflect positive images of race and culture. A suitable range of resources are now available that reflect diversity within society and help children make sense of the world, such as multicultural books and dolls.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- obtain written permission from parents to administer sun-screen
- devise a sick child policy to inform parents of the type of illness that may exclude their child, and for how long
- practise the emergency escape plan with children
- increase knowledge of the procedure to follow to report child protection concerns
- improve knowledge of how to investigate and record complaints and inform parents of the role of Ofsted in investigating concerns.

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