

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 138953 |
| Inspection date | 20 August 2007 |
| Inspector | Victoria Vasiliadis |

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| 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 partner and adult child in a residential area of Northwood, in the borough of Hillingdon.

The whole of the childminder's home is used for childminding, with the exception of the loft conversion. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years. She is currently caring for four children of varying ages on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a selection of activities which contribute to their health and physical development. The childminder encourages the children to be physically active and ensures they have opportunities to take part in activities. For example, children frequently visit the local parks, go for walks, play in the garden or attend tumble tots.

Children benefit from a balanced diet and are offered regular drinks. The children enjoy varied and nutritious meals and snacks that are provided by the childminder in agreement with parents. For instance, snacks may include fruit or yoghurts and lunch consists of shepherd's pie, pasta or casseroles. Meals are freshly prepared and take account of any special dietary requirements children may have to ensure they remain healthy.

Children are cared for in an environment that is suitably maintained, warm and clean. The childminder has appropriate hygiene procedures in place that enable children to be cared for in an environment that reduces the risk of infection. For example, children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and children do not attend if they are unwell with an infectious illness. Their welfare is further protected, as the childminder has implemented sound procedures for accidents and medication.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a selection of resources that are suitably maintained and safe. The childminder monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to ensure they are safe, appropriate and suitable for their ages. She ensures that resources meet safety standards when purchasing and carries out regular checks to ensure they remain safe and in good condition. The childminder safeguards children's welfare and has the required procedures and documents in place. For example, she has a satisfactory knowledge of the local safeguarding children procedures and has completed first aid training.

The childminder has an awareness of the need to keep the children safe. For example, she has taken a number of steps to ensure the safety of the children in her care. For instance, hazardous materials are inaccessible and children are supervised at all times when taken on outings. However, some hazards have not been addressed by the childminder, as hazardous plants are accessible in the garden and the fire blanket is not correctly located.

The home is comfortably furnished and equipped to ensure the individual needs of the children are met. The childminder has a selection of equipment in place to support the differing ages and needs of children. For example, a high chair and travel cot are in place to ensure the children can sleep and eat in comfort.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are engaged and occupied during their time within the setting. At present the child being cared for benefits from some one-to-one attention with the childminder. Interaction between the childminder and child is positive, as the childminder sits at the child's level and gives good eye contact. Conversations with the child take place during play and when attending to the child's personal needs, this encourages children's language skills.

Children have access to a selection of resources that are suitable for their ages and interests. For example, the child enjoys playing with the musical toys and exploring the toys on offer. The resources are accessible to the older children as they are stored in plastic boxes which children can easily access. The childminder also rotates the toys on a daily basis to ensure children's levels of interest are maintained.

The children are provided with opportunities to develop their fine and gross motor skills, as they have daily outings to tumble tots and participate in garden games. They have access to resources, such as rattles, musical toys and stacking blocks. These activities promote hand eye co-ordination and improve the children's physical development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder cares for children in a warm manner and meets their needs by giving them attention and valuing their individuality. Children feel valued as the childminder increases their awareness of themselves. For example, she smiles to give encouragement and praise for their achievements. The childminder has appropriate behaviour management systems in place and discusses these with parents at the initial meeting in order to obtain consistency. She also shares her written behaviour management statement with new parents.

Children are happy and content as the childminder maintains working relationships with the parents. They work together to meet the child's individual care and developmental needs. Parents and carers are kept informed about their child's day and general well-being as the childminder talks to them at the beginning and end of the day and has several written statements in place.

Children are beginning to learn about the world in which they live as they have access to a selection of resources which reflect different cultures and gender, such as dolls, books and play people. The childminder acknowledged some of the Christian festivals with older children, such as Christmas and Easter.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has made the home reasonably safe, comfortable and welcoming for children. Resources are easily accessible as they are stored within children's reach. This means that children are enabled to make choices and initiate their own play.

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. Almost all of the legally required documents are in place and appropriately organised. However, the childminder is not clear of the procedures to follow if a complaint is received. 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: conduct a risk assessment on the premises; maintain good hygiene practices; provide resources that reflect diversity; ensure that she does not exceed her conditions of registration; ensure all persons over 16 years are suitably checked and make her records available for inspection. The childminder has completed all of these requirements, resulting in children's care and well-being being improved.

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):

- improve knowledge of how to deal with complaints which is in line with the amendments to the National Standards
- ensure children do not have access to hazardous plants in the garden
- ensure the fire blanket is correctly located.

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