

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160567
Inspection date	18 March 2008
Inspector	Bharti Vakil
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 2001. She lives with her husband and three school age children in Staines in Middlesex. The whole of the ground floor of the house and one bedroom upstairs are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. There are washing and toileting facilities upstairs. The family have a dog and some caged lizards.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children; of these no more than two may be under five years at any one time. The childminder also works with an assistant. When working with an assistant may care for a maximum of four children of whom no more than three children may be under five years at any one time. There are currently two children on roll who attend various sessions. The childminder also cares for children over eight years.

The childminder drives and walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well cared for family home. They are beginning to learn about keeping healthy themselves through the care routines in place. For example, they wash their hands after handling the dog and put on a coat before garden play when it is cold. Effective procedures are in place for the recording of accidents and the administration of medication which ensures that children are well cared for and their needs met. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate which enables her to deal with an emergency appropriately.

Children eat comfortably at the table and high chair is available for younger children. They are confident to ask for snacks when feeling hungry. Children are able to help themselves to cool drinks from the fridge dispenser throughout the day. Parents provide meals for their children and the childminder provides small nutritious snacks, all of which are stored appropriately. When preparing food for the children, the childminder ensures the food is thoroughly cooked and allows the food to cool before giving to the children.

Children benefit from regular outdoor exercise and fresh air. They thoroughly enjoy the covered outside area and make good use of the painting easel and the role play area. Children have access to the back garden and a good selection of equipment including the climbing frame, slide, trampoline, sand pit, sit and ride, and push along toys. The younger children also have opportunities to participate in weekly trips to gym sessions. This helps children gain control over their bodies and develop balance. The older children walk to and from school and enjoy planned trips to parks during school holidays. Children are learning to take responsibility for their own safety when outdoors as the childminder talks to them about road safety and encourages children to hold on to the buggy when out walking.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and happy because the childminder has made her home safe and secure to enable them to explore independently. There is clear space for children to play on the floor. The designated areas for rest and meal times are comfortable.

The childminder is vigilant and constantly supervises young children's play to ensure they are safe. Children are well protected in emergency situations because the childminder has developed a sound emergency escape plan and the system for contacting parents. The escape plan is practised with children to ensure the quick and safe evacuation from the home, should the need arise. A large trampoline in the back garden is used with close supervision and the written policy is in place for parents' information. However, the childminder has not checked with her insurer that she is covered for this high risk activity.

Children's individual needs are met effectively as there is an excellent range of equipment available; for example, high chair, buggy, safety gates, fireguard, toilet step and car seats. Toys and play materials are stored at low levels so children can reach them easily. This helps children make independent choices and sustain a good level of involvement in their play activities.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities in child protection. She is clear about the necessary procedure to follow if she has concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play enthusiastically with an interesting range of activities that are age appropriate and extend their development and learning. They enjoy a very warm and close relationship with the childminder, which enables them to extend their learning in a supportive and caring environment. The toys and play resources available encourage progress as well as being fun, for example, a young child expertly uses the wok and combination of pretend and real food to make sushi and rice for the childminder. Children involve the childminder in their play and in return receive positive attention which helps build their confidence and enables them to successfully extend their learning.

Young children are becoming competent learners as the childminder incorporates the Birth to three matters framework, which supports children in their earliest years, into the planning of the routine and activities. They have good opportunities to develop problem solving skills as they sort objects, build with bricks, post shapes and fit puzzles of varying challenges. They develop their vocabulary as the childminder asks them questions and encourages conversation. Children are developing good hand-eye coordination as they practise their early writing skills when they draw, colour and play with sand.

Older children can independently choose what they would like to do after school, they have the opportunity to play or relax. They enjoy an interesting variety of activities appropriate for their ages and are involved in planning activities for the following few days. During school holidays children enjoy planned trips to child friendly settings such Tropical Park and the British Museum.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Excellent partnership with parents and carers contributes significantly to the children's sense of security and well-being. Good information is shared between their parents and the childminder regarding their routine care and activities. The childminder provides parents of children under five years with daily written reports. The very well organised and maintained folders for parents informs about the childminder's policies, procedures, child care experience and qualifications. Therefore, parents are clearly very well informed about the arrangements for the care of their children.

Children enjoy care that promotes their well-being and a positive self-image. The childminder knows the children in her care well and is, therefore, able to ensure that they are treated with equal concern and that their individual needs are met. Children confidently voice their requests and needs, and the childminder meets them affectionately. They are provided with a range of meaningful resources that reflect positive images of diversity such as puzzles, books, dolls and play people. These resources are well used by the children and childminder who talks to children about similarities and differences.

Children enjoy close relationships with the childminder and they learn to be respectful, caring and considerate. For example, children are encouraged to say please and thank-you to adults and each other. The young children are learning to be gentle and kind to others. Children benefit from being with familiar and trusted adult within a family environment. The excellent levels of positive interaction and stimulating activities mean children are motivated, interested in their environment and have little opportunity to become bored or uninterested.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care and developmental needs are well met as the childminder has good knowledge and understanding of caring for young children. She effectively uses her knowledge gained from attending relevant training. She is keen to enhance her knowledge by attending further training.

Children are settled and confident in the childminder's home which has well organised play space, allowing them to move around freely. This enhances their learning opportunities. Children are safeguarded through a variety of practical measures. Although, the childminder has not notified her insurer regarding the use of large trampoline.

Children observe excellent relationships between their parents and the childminder. As a result, children feel very safe and secure. All the legally required records are maintained, in addition many more are available to support the needs of the children and improve working relationships with parents and carers.

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 asked to: provide a suitable range of activities and resources that promotes diversity; and a written complaints procedure for parents.

Children's awareness of diversity is increasing through access to meaningful resources, such as books and discussions about various cultures and people. The written information about complaints clearly informs parents of procedures to follow.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 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):

- check that the use of the large trampoline is covered with insurers

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