

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	137671
Inspection date	03 July 2007
Inspector	Caren Carpenter

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 1990. This childminder lives with her husband and two children in a three bed room house which is located within the London borough of Brent. The living room, kitchen and an outdoor play house are for childminding. There is an enclosed garden for outside play. There is limited access to the first floor of the home.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children under eight. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The childminder works with her daughter who is a registered childminder.

The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends local toddler groups. The childminder is a member of National Childminding Association Quality First Assurance Scheme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a warm, welcoming and clean environment. They are encouraged to take care of their own personal hygiene, for example the washing of hands before and after eating.

Records and policies that support children's good health are well maintained. Accident and medicine records are completed appropriately and there is a procedure for children who are unwell. A written sickness policy, which the childminder shares with parents, ensures children are well cared for. As a result, children are protected from illness and infection.

Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks and meals which are provided to meet their individual dietary requirements. They are offered a selection of fresh fruits such as melon, apples and pineapple. Children recognise when they are thirsty and are offered regular drinks of water. Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise. Regular outings to parks and toddler groups provide children with good opportunities to promote their overall physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment, where risks are identified and minimised. They are able to feel relaxed and at home as space has been organised to meet their individual needs. For example, they eat, rest and play comfortably.

Children select toys from safe and accessible boxes in the living room and the play house. They are familiar with where their favourite toys are and can select them without harming themselves. Children gain independence and a sense of achievement through moving around freely from indoor to outdoor safely. The childminder conducts a daily risk assessment to ensure that children arrive in the morning to a welcoming and safe environment.

Children are protected from harm because; the childminder has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the correct procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely happy and very secure in the childminder's care. They independently choose from an excellent range of good quality toys and equipment which provides extremely good challenges to them. Children benefit from an interesting programme of activities that fosters their learning and development. Children have lots of fun as they make choices about what they want to play with such as, water and painting activities, play dough, listening to stories and singing simple nursery rhymes and songs.

The childminder uses her knowledge, training and skills to plan and prepare activities which help children in their next steps in learning and development. She competently uses the Birth to three matters framework in confidently ensuring a wealth of experiences for children, which captivate them, so that they are happy all of the time. Children benefit from the wonderful

interaction with the childminder who keeps their interest alive and then withdraws to allow them to explore for themselves. This increases their confidence and independent skills.

Children are very confident in their relationships with each other and the childminder. Their personal development and self-esteem are promoted through the excellent sensitive and skilled support of the childminder.

Children are motivated to explore new skills because; the childminder encourages them in a lively way and rewards them with lots of praise. Children eagerly participate and listen well to a story of "Abiyoyo". The childminder uses a range of story props to maintain the children's interest and to encourage them to act out the story. Children's language and communication skills are extended through a range of interesting activities. For example, the childminder encourages children to name different pictures such as spider, truck, cake, flower, apple and teddy bear.

Children are taken to weekly toddler groups and the library. They enjoy trips to a museum and the zoo. This improves their social skills and confidence. The childminder liaises very well with parents to ensure that they experience continuity of care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of the children's individual needs. This means that children enjoy a flexible routine that allows them good opportunities to play, learn and develop at their own pace. Children are beginning to learn about other people. The childminder raises their awareness of cultures and differences and varying needs. Children's understanding about the wider world is extended by regular outings to local play groups.

The childminder provides consistent boundaries and offers lots of praise and encouragement when children do something well. Children are encouraged to take turns and share resources and are given clear guidance on acceptable behaviour. They play together and alongside each other very well, enjoy each other's company and are at ease with the childminder.

Children are very happy and content because parents share information about their children's individual needs, interests and experiences with the childminder. A daily diary is used effectively to keep parents informed about their children's developmental progress, routines and activities. Children are encouraged to be independent and are well looked after by the childminder, as a result they are happy, content and secure.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are able to feel at home in the well-organised environment. The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of caring for young children, which means their welfare, care and development needs are met very effectively. She is warm and affectionate towards the children who are relaxed and happy in her care.

The organisation of space and resources enables children to move around freely as they choose toys, play and relax comfortably. Children enjoy outings to the park and playgroups where they are able to socialise with other children and widen their play experiences.

Records, written policies and procedures are put into practice to ensure children are well cared for. This also supports good working relationships with parents. However, there is no method yet in place to log parents' concerns. The childminder is committed to updating and improving her knowledge and skills. She attends further training courses which help to enhance and support children's learning and development. 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 conduct regular risk assessments; to ensure that medicinal products are securely stored; record all accidents and incidents and gain knowledge of the local Safeguarding children's board procedures. The childminder conducts regular risk assessments to ensure that potential hazards are minimised. Medications are stored securely. As a result, children's safety is well promoted. Children's welfare and care is promoted because, the childminder records all accidents and incidents. Children are protected from harm and neglect, because the childminder has attended child protection training. This means that she has updated her knowledge and understanding of the local safeguarding children's board procedures.

The childminder was required to implement Fire Safety officer's recommendations. Children's safety is further promoted, because a Fire Safety Officer visited the premises. The childminder has all required fire safety equipment in place. Therefore, no recommendations were made.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received one complaint relating to National Standard 1. A compliance notice was issued relating to a breach of National Standard 1. On 9 March 2006, Ofsted conducted an unannounced visit to the premises and found that the childminder had complied with the notice.

An action was also set in respect of National Standard 2 requiring that the childminder ensure that the number of minded children did not exceed the terms of her registration in the future. Ofsted were satisfied that the childminder had met the National Standards. Ofsted took no further action and the childminder remains qualified for registration.

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):

- develop a system for logging complaints made by parents.

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