

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 137630 |
| Inspection date | 21 November 2007 |
| Inspector | Jennifer Devine |
| 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 registered in 1987. She lives with her husband, two adult children and one lodger in Willesden, in the London borough of Brent. The childminder uses the ground floor, one bedroom and the bathroom on the first floor for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is currently registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently caring for five children, some of whom attend part time and share places. The childminder has a dog.

Following this inspection, the childminder's adult daughter has become an assistant and the childminder's registered numbers has been increased to six children at any one time.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained home. Children are developing good personal hygiene skills as hand washing is encouraged at appropriate times during the day. They learn about good dental care and are encouraged to clean their teeth after meals. The childminder has good procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection. For example, children do not attend if they are unwell. Appropriate accident and medication records are maintained. The childminder has obtained parents consent to administer medication, however this is not specific to individual children's requirements. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate which enables her to deal with an emergency appropriately.

Children enjoy the healthy and nutritious foods offered to them. Some parents provide food for their children and the childminder also provides meals as required. The childminder is fully aware of children's special dietary needs, which ensures that children remain healthy.

Children's physical health is promoted by the childminder. They benefit from playing outdoors in the garden, visiting local parks and when walking home from nursery school everyday.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment, where safety precautions are in place. Daily risk assessments are conducted of the home and records are maintained. The childminder has a good understanding of the importance of having an emergency evacuation plan in the event of a fire occurring. Children are able to play and sleep in comfort using furniture appropriate for their ages. The childminder ensures the furniture and play equipment is safe, clean and in good condition as she carries out regular checks.

Space is organised to meet all the children's needs and enables them to play, eat and rest safely. Toys and play materials are stored so they accessible to children enabling them to make choices about their play.

The childminder is vigilant about children's safety when outdoors. Young children are securely harnessed in the pushchair and older children understand about walking close by and holding hands when crossing roads.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and understands the reporting procedures to follow if concerned.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are secure and happy in the company of the childminder. They enter her home eagerly and make themselves at home. The childminder knows the children well and their individual needs, routines and interests are taken into account when planning daily activities. The childminder provides a varied range of toys and activities which encourages progress as well as being fun. Children have some time for free play where they enjoy dressing up and playing in the pretend kitchen. They also have planned activities and enjoy making tiaras using various

sticking materials. The childminder extends children's knowledge by encouraging them to count 'how many' when cutting and talking to them all the time.

Younger children enjoy the activities provided. The childminder has attended training on the Birth to three matters framework and ensures the children participate in a range of play to encourage their early development.

Children play well together, sharing and taking turns. Older children are developing caring attitudes as they play and allow the younger children to join in with their games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are treated as individuals and the childminder strives to ensure that their individual care needs are met.

Children take part in activities around different festivals and celebrations such as making mendhi hand prints for Diwali. This helps them develop a positive image of themselves and the wider world.

Children's behaviour is good. The childminder gives clear rules and boundaries about what is expected, which is age appropriate to the different age groups. The childminder also praises children for their achievements and this helps build up self esteem and confidence.

The childminder recognises the importance of working with parents to ensure there is an effective partnership with benefits children. Information is shared verbally with parents everyday and younger children also have a daily diary which details significant events to share.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The environment is comfortable and organised to meet the children's needs and as a result children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. Children are well supported by the childminder who has a flexible routine to include play activities and time for rest and relaxation. Children benefit from the childminder's secure understanding of the National Standards. She has a good understanding of the adult/child ratios and plans her daily routine to ensure she gives sufficient time to all children. She has generally well written policies and procedures and most of the required documentation is in place; except for medication consent not being specific to children's needs.

The childminder attends further training courses to continue to develop her skills and keep herself updated with current information.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has made improvements in the care she provides to children. The childminder now ensures the attendance register is well maintained and includes the times of children's arrival and departure. This ensures children's safety.

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 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):

- ensure parents written consent for medication is obtained which is specific to individual children's requirements.

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