

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	117851
Inspection date	13 November 2007
Inspector	Kim Mundy
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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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 and three children in Hanwell in the London borough of Ealing. The ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has a pet hamster.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five and three children over five after school. She walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends local pre-school settings.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and welfare are promoted; they are learning suitable hygiene practices as they wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. The premises are kept adequately clean. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and therefore, children receive appropriate treatment in an emergency. Children are protected from unnecessary illness as

they do not attend if they are infectious. Their well-being is supported by sound record keeping systems for accidents and medication administration.

Children enjoy fresh air and exercise and they are able to develop physical skills as they ride bikes, throw balls and push and pull-a-long toys. They also develop their physical skills at the park and playgroup, and enjoy digging at the allotment as they grow peas and potatoes.

The children sit comfortably at the kitchen table to enjoy nutritious snacks and meals such as fresh fruit, pasta, rice and lentils. Fresh drinking water is available at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a satisfactorily maintained and clean home. Appropriate furniture and equipment is available to meet the needs of the children attending and there is suitable space in which to play, rest and eat comfortably.

The children are able to explore independently because the childminder has made her home safe and secure. They are learning to take responsibility for their own safety as they cross the road with the childminder on the school run. A suitable fire evacuation procedure is in place, which is discussed with the children.

Overall, children's welfare is safeguarded through the childminder's appropriate knowledge and understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection. However, there are adults in the household who have not undertaken the necessary checks to ensure their suitability.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happily occupied during their time at the childminder's home. They have access to some toys and resources that are suitable for their age and stage of development, for instance, puzzles, cars and books. Children are not able to select from a wide range of toys and resources because the childminder has not organised them so that they are easily accessible to the children.

Children are exploring while using their senses, for example, as they use play dough and water. They are developing their imagination and creative skills as they draw, stick and paint. Children participate in cooking activities and they are developing their independence skills as they butter their sandwiches. They play various games, which help them to learn colours and numbers. Children are developing their language skills as the childminder asks them questions and encourages them to chat. They enjoy building with bricks and solving problems, for example, as they fit puzzles together.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

The children are valued and respected as individuals and they have equal access to toys and resources. Children have some opportunities to develop an awareness of the wider community as the childminder increases the selection of toys and resources that reflect positive images of gender, race, culture and disability.

Children are learning right from wrong as the childminder uses appropriate and consistent strategies for behaviour management. She offers regular praise and encouragement to children to help increase their confidence and self-esteem.

Parents and carers provide relevant information about their child. There is a daily exchange of information about the children's activities, routine and achievements. Therefore, children receive appropriate care and attention. However, the childminder is not aware of changes in regulation for recording complaints from parents.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The children are appropriately cared for and they are happy in the childminder's care. Some suitable toys and activities are available and capture the children's interest, although they are not able to select from a wide range of resources to fully promote their development.

Most of the regulatory paperwork is in place and it is organised in a folder to enable the childminder to retrieve information promptly. However, the childminder has not completed necessary checks for a household member over 16 years old, which is a breach of regulation. This means children are not fully safeguarded and protected.

The childminder does not meet 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 provide toys and resources which reflect positive images of special educational needs. These have not been provided, although the childminder states that she continues to seek out resources to help children to develop an understanding of disability.

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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- obtain knowledge and understanding of the latest guidance for managing complaints from parents
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and set in place a procedure to notify Ofsted of relevant matters in particular the arrangements to ensure that household members 16 years and over have completed a criminal record check.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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