

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	116132
Inspection date	25 February 2008
Inspector	Catherine Greenwood

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 May 2000. She lives with her husband and two children aged 12 and six years, in a semi detached house in Bedfont, in Middlesex. The premises is close to shops, schools, parks and public transport. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children under eight years.

Children have access to a sitting room, kitchen, and downstairs cloakroom. A bedroom on the first floor is available for children who require a sleep. There is a secure enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder holds a level three childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder gives parents the choice about food provision. She currently provides meals for most of the children, which include their favourite dishes. The childminder encourages children to try different types of food. Consequently, children eat well and are provided with a healthy and nutritious diet which includes a wide variety of fruit.

With prior parental consent, the childminder takes children to the local health centre for developmental check ups. During these visits, they learn about their own health, such as the importance of looking after their teeth. The childminder has a good knowledge of accident and medication administration requirements, and holds a current first aid certificate.

Younger children are taken to a weekly gymnastics session where they develop their skills in climbing and sliding. Younger children have access to a range of wheeled toys, and lots of space to run around freely during frequent visits to toddler groups. The childminder takes children on regular outings to parks where they can use large equipment. In good weather, children use a see saw, slide, rocker, sand pit, swing and small trampoline in the childminders garden. Consequently, they have very good opportunities to develop their gross motor skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Risks to children's safety are minimised because the childminder completes a comprehensive risk assessment of her home, and checks the garden before children use it. There is a very good range of age appropriate play equipment that is maintained to high standards. Children learn about what to do in the event of a fire because the childminder practises and records an evacuation procedure on a three monthly basis, and uses different exits within the premises. Children are kept safe on outings because the childminder ensures they stay near to her and holding hands or the pushchair in busy areas. In addition, children wear wrist bands with the childminders phone number.

The childminder has a good knowledge of safety hazards within her home. For example, she ensures the sitting room door is kept shut at all times, to prevent children having access to the stairs, and teaches them to negotiate the step from the kitchen into the garden. However, current sleeping arrangements for one of the children currently attending are not appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Children's welfare is fully safeguarded because the childminder has an excellent understanding of the procedures to follow if she is concerned a child. There is a written child protection procedure in place which is given to parents, and all current child protection documentation is available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a wide range of experiences. For example, they go on outings to nature reserves, farms, gardens, a gym, toddler groups and the library. Photographs show children using a bubble machine in the childminders garden, and older children enjoying ice skating. Written plans identify activities which the childminder uses in a flexible way. The childminder says she always asks the children what they want to do. Younger children develop their senses as they handle and explore a range of media such as angel delight and semolina.

Children develop very good independence within their play, because the childminder makes the toys easily accessible. Photographs in children's individual scrap books show a wide variety of creative activities, for example, painting, sticking, making cards, cooking, junk modelling, and playdough. The childminder keeps detailed written observations of children's play, which include what they have learnt and achieved in relation to the Birth to three matters guidance.

Children benefit from regular opportunities to socialise with others and be part of large group, during visits to toddler groups, which the childminder helps to run.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are very happy. This is because the childminder ensures they always feel included, and aims to provide a 'family set up'. She has an affectionate and caring approach and ensures she stays close to younger children, for example when they are out at toddler groups. When children are unsettled by unfamiliar people and situations, the childminder remains exceptionally patient. Consequently, children feel reassured and are developing their self confidence and independence.

The childminder helps new children to settle in gradually with parents. When they first start she asks parents to provide a routine for children so that she can accommodate their individual needs. The childminder knows each child well, for example, that younger children are happier when they are sitting at a higher level. Children develop their communication and are less frustrated when expressing their needs because the childminder teaches them to use sign language at various times throughout the day.

Children are very well behaved and develop good manners, because they know the expectations and rules. The childminder helps all children to learn how to behave towards others, and to develop an awareness of the feelings of others. If there are any difficulties she talks to parents, and is open to suggestions in ways of managing issues. This means that children are provided with continuity of care.

The childminder has a very good relationship with parents. Feedback sheets from parents include positive comments such as ' we are very happy with the childminder and value her support', 'our child is very happy as a result of being with the childminder and her family, 'my child gets lots of exercise and meets new people' and 'I am very happy with the 'daily diary sheets' I get each day'.

Children learn about the importance of caring for the environment, as they see the childminder washing out the yogurt pots, and during visits to the re-cycling centre. They develop a positive view of differences because they have access to play figures, books and dolls that reflect race and disability. In addition, children learn about different festivals through activities related to Chinese New year, Christmas, Easter, Ede and Diwali. For example, they make candles, draw pictures and talk about aspects of the celebrations that are similar. The childminder is not currently caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Record keeping systems are exceptionally well organised. The childminder has created her own portfolio, which includes a wide range of written policies and procedures, as well as other necessary information. Well presented scrap books include written observations and photographs as well as aims for children's future development. These are given to parents when children leave.

The childminder has attended lots of additional training and has a positive and open approach to improving her knowledge and the service she provides. Consequently, children benefit new ideas the childminder has introduced. For example, organised music sessions, using puppets

and role play, ensuring children are given lots of notice when activities are about to change, and parent feedback sheets related to the National Standards.

Children have plenty of space to move around, and the sitting room is set up to maximise opportunities for children to choose their own play equipment, and do creative activities. Children's art work is displayed at a low level around the home. This means that they can see what they have made, and consequently feel proud of their individual achievements. 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 agreed to provide separate hand drying facilities for the children. Flannels are made easily accessible for older to children to use independently and these are disposed of after each use. This means that the risk of cross infection has been reduced.

Complaints since the last inspection

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. Since the last inspection 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 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):

- review and improve sleeping arrangements for younger children

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