

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	137634
Inspection date	29 January 2008
Inspector	Audrey Opal Ufot

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 satisfactory. 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 January 1982. She lives with her husband and three adult children in Kilburn in the London Borough of Brent. The ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under eight at any one time and is currently minding two children. The childminder attends the local park and collects children from school. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in warm clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. For example, children are developing an understanding of why they must wash their hands before eating. The childminder has suitable nappy changing procedures in place as she wears gloves when children's nappies are changed and anti-bacterial spray is used to clean the changing mat. Satisfactory documentation is in place to record accidents, incidents,

medication, and injuries. Parents' written permission has been obtained for emergency medical advice or treatment. Children do not attend if they have an infection; this is discussed with parents' at the beginning of childminding arrangements.

The childminder has sound understanding about emergency first aid. For example, her first aid training is up-to-date and a suitable first aid box is suitably stocked.

Children take part in daily outdoor activities for fresh air and physical exercise. The childminder takes the children on visits to the local park and on walks to collect children from school. Children also have the use of a fully enclosed garden where they can play bat and ball games and sand and water play.

Parents provide their children with healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. The childminder ensures children's foods are re-heated at the appropriate temperature. Children's dietary requirements are known to the childminder and are met well. Children know that they can ask for drinks at anytime, they can also help themselves as their beakers are left on the table in the play room.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming family home. Children are able to move around the play room and hallway freely and safely because the childminder has made good use of the space. Children are provided with a suitable range of toys, equipment and furniture to meet their ages and developmental needs.

The childminder has risk assessed most areas of her home for potential hazards. For example, a safety gate is positioned at the bottom of the stairs and at the main entrance door as an automatic safety lock to prevent children from leaving the premises unnoticed. However, the fire blanket is not positioned appropriately in the kitchen.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure the children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. She has a sound understanding of the child protection procedures to follow if abuse is suspected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and confident at the childminder's home. Children are welcome to a brightly decorated playroom with the children's favourite cartoon characters such as 'Winnie the Pooh'. Children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder. The childminder encourages language development by engaging in purposeful conversation. For example, she sits on the floor and talks through with the children when they are building a tower block; and at other times talk to the children about how many bricks it takes to build a tower.

Children have a warm caring relationship with the childminder. She praises and encourages the children in their play. Children's independence is being developed because they are able to choose from a good range of toys, play materials and equipments. These are age appropriate and meet the differing ages and stages of their development.

Children enjoy regular visits to the local park where they have the opportunity to play bat and ball games. However, children are not given opportunities to mix with other children to develop their social skills and relationship building.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy at the childminder's home. They are familiar with the daily routines which enable them to feel safe and secure. Children's individual needs are suitably met. Children's dietary and allergy requirements are gathered from parents to ensure that their needs are satisfactory met.

There are limited resources that reflect images of differing cultures and abilities, although, there are several books offering positive images. Children with learning difficulties and/or disability are welcomed into the childminder's home as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare.

The childminder uses age appropriate strategies to manage any difficulties that may arise. For example, she distracts children to another activity and gives good explanation about right and wrong.

The childminder has a positive working relationships with parents to enable her to gain knowledge of children's individual needs. Parents receive daily verbal feedback regarding their children's well-being and they are able to see information that is displayed such as registration and first aid certificates and complaints policy.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder as she is warm and caring towards the children; as result they are comfortable and relaxed in her care. This promotes the children's well-being. Children's individual and learning needs are discussed with parent to ensure children make progress and achieve.

Children can easily access toys and play resources which are aged appropriate; these are stored in boxes in areas of learning within the play room. The childminder makes best use of the space to ensure children have a stimulating day. The daily routine allows children to play safely at the local park.

All the required documentation is in place which contributes to the children's safety, health and wellbeing. Children's overall care, learning and welfare are promoted by the information shared between parents and the childminder.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection two recommendations was made, however, only one of this has been addressed. The childminder has attended a course of first aid training which includes training in first aid for infants and young children and a certificate was shown has evidence dated

19/03/2005. As a result children are safeguarded by the childminder's sound understanding of emergency first aid.

However, the childminder has not yet provided the children with opportunities to develop their social skills and build relationships with their peers. Therefore, a further recommendation has been made.

Complaints since the last inspection

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 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 satisfactory. 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 the fire blanket is appropriately positioned in the kitchen
- ensure that children are provided with opportunities to develop their social skills and build relationships with their peers
- increase the resources that reflects positive images of cultures and disability.

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