

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138338
Inspection date	06 March 2008
Inspector	Susan Elizabeth Tovey
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 1998. She lives with her husband and two adult children, in Hillingdon in the London borough of Hillingdon. The whole ground floor is used for childminding with sleeping and toilet facilities upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for four children.

The childminder attends the local toddler groups.

The family have two dogs as pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a home where their health is well promoted by high standards of cleanliness and good hygiene practices. The childminder has a good understanding

of the importance of personal hygiene and encourages the children to follow her good examples, such as, disposing of tissues in the bin after use. The childminder has a current first aid certificate which means that she has the knowledge to deal with any accidents that may happen to the minded children. There are good, clear systems in place for the recording of accidents and the administration of first aid and medication, all of which are signed by parents to acknowledge that they have been kept informed.

The childminder consults with parents about their child's dietary requirements and preferences. Children bring their own lunches from home with the childminder providing health snacks of fresh fruit. They eat sitting comfortably at the table and enjoy sociable time with each other. The children can access drinks throughout the day and the childminder reminds them to have a drink regularly.

Children have good opportunities to spend time outside in the fresh air, to be active and develop their physical skills. They play in the garden and explore the varied range of outdoor play equipment available. This caters for children of different ages and stages of development. The childminder regularly takes children out for walks to local parks and places of interest. They also visit the gym and soft play areas to enable them to climb and use a range of physical play resources. This helps to develop their coordination and physical abilities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is friendly and welcoming with photos of the children having fun and their art work displayed on the walls. Children use all available space well; they access the toys and equipment with ease. There is a range of suitable and well maintained furniture readily available to meet the children's needs. The childminder gives high priority to checking the toys to ensure they remain safe for the children.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment, where risks are identified and reduced to safeguard children. Appropriate safety equipment is in place, for example, safety gates, smoke alarms and plug guards. The childminder has devised a detailed emergency evacuation plan, however, this has not been practised with children to ensure they can be evacuated quickly from the premises, if necessary. Children's safety is protected when out with the childminder, by careful supervision and her awareness of venues she is visiting with children.

The childminder has a secure knowledge of child protection issues. She has a clear understanding of the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child, which ensures their welfare is safeguarded. The childminder understands the importance of keeping a signed record of children's existing injuries.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit greatly as the childminder plans their day around their individual needs and their usual routines. The childminder organises a wide variety of activities both inside and outdoors. They go out most days to mix with other children and develop their social skills as they regularly visit the gym, local groups and meet up with other childminders and the children they are caring for.

A rich variety of resources and activities are set out attractively in the play areas with educational poster displayed on the walls. This promotes children's interest and provides them with good opportunities to make independent choices in their play. For instance, they draw, play in the tunnel, select books to look at and complete puzzles. Children use their imagination well as they play a make believe game pretending to cook lunch in the playhouse and hide in the tunnel. The children laugh and giggle as they become engrossed in their play. The childminder encourages children's learning as she involves herself in their play. For example ,as they match the numbers in the book to those on the poster and the pictures relating to the letters of the alphabet. The children also enjoy the art and craft activities offered, like the decorated box they made to use with the puppet of 'Snow White/Evil Queen' to accompany the story. Older children enjoy constructing numerous model including a tank, plane and a bow and arrow. These are proudly displayed on the counter with 'Snow White's' box and their decorated egg shells.

Children involve the childminder in their play and they receive lots of warm, individual attention, which enables them to successfully extend their learning and experiences. Children are making good progress in all areas of their development as the childminder has a very good understanding of how children learn and develop in a supportive stimulating environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and confident in the childminder's care because they are valued and respected as individuals. They are beginning to develop an awareness of themselves and other people as they learn about cultures and traditions of the wider world whilst out in the community. Children are also learning about diversity through the resources that are provided. They enjoy looking at books and watching programmes like 'Mr.Tumble' which depicts positive images of disability and cultural differences.

Children's behaviour is good. The childminder gives them lots of time and attention and is proactive in responding to their needs and requests. The childminder encourages the children to share and take turns. She gently and calmly reminds the children of right and wrong which helps them to conform within the familiar consistent boundaries.

Partnership with parents is good and contributes to children's well being. Parents are given daily verbal feedback to ensure that they are kept informed of their child's development. Most of the required documentation is shared with parents. However, not all written consents have been obtained. The childminder has a written complaints procedure in place, which is made available to parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are very happy and contented in the care of the childminder. They play with confidence and receive plenty of support. Children confidently move around in the childminder's home and are encouraged to make choices in their play. The childminder is well organised and the day runs smoothly for the children. She is attentive to all the children's needs, contributing to their learning and development. This means that they are confident to express their needs.

All documents are in place according to regulation. They are stored securely and available for inspection. The childminder keeps parents well informed about the care she provides. All adults living within the household are appropriately vetted.

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 asked to update her knowledge and understanding of the child protection referral procedures. The childminder has familiarised herself with the Local Authority Safeguarding procedures to follow for referral and has the relevant booklet to refer to. This means the children's safety and well-being are enhanced.

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 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):

- practise emergency escape plan.
- update parental written consents

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