

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 138694 |
| Inspection date | 08 January 2008 |
| Inspector | Glenda Pownall |
| 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 registered in 1992. She lives with her adult child and teenage child in Hayes, Middlesex. The childminder uses most of the ground floor of the premises for childminding, with the exception of the reception room at the back of the house. Young babies sleep in a travel cot in the master bedroom.

The childminder is registered to care for four children. She is currently minding one child under five full time, one part time and three children who attend part time after school and during the holidays. The family has two dogs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder promotes the health of children as she encourages children to clean their hands at appropriate times and to cover their mouths when coughing. She shares her sick child policy with parents and follows an effective nappy changing procedure. This reduces the risk of cross

infection. The childminder describes appropriate procedures for the recording of accidents and the administration of medication.

The childminder regularly refreshes drinks of diluted squash, fruit juice or water for young children. Older children are able to help themselves to a drink at anytime developing independence skills. The childminder discusses with parents the dietary requirements of children to ensure she meets their individual needs. Parents provide some of the food for their children's meals. The childminder displays a sound understanding of providing healthy foods and offers children fresh fruit and yoghurts.

Children have regular opportunities to experience physical exercise. They walk to and from school each day and regularly visit local parks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has an adequate understanding of how to keep children safe. For example, the front door is secure and a mobile stair gate is positioned where needed. However, the window in the first floor bathroom is easily opened and toiletries are accessible to children on the window sill. The back door and gate are easily opened and do not prevent access to the premises. This compromises the safety of children.

Children develop an understanding of how to keep themselves safe. The childminder practises the emergency evacuation procedure with children and involves them in writing the evacuation plan. The childminder encourages children to adopt good road safety measures when out walking.

The childminder has a sound understanding of signs and symptoms of child abuse and of the procedures to follow if concerned a child is at risk. However, she does not have a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures to fully safeguard children.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy environment. There are sufficient resources for the number of children cared for covering all aspects of development. The childminder checks the resources each time they are used to ensure they are clean and safe for children to use.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminders care because she interacts warmly with them. The childminder repeats back to young children what they have said encouraging language development. There is lots of conversation between the childminder and children as they build steps and place bricks to represent family members onto their models.

Young children enjoy making marks and the childminder extends the activity by introducing the colours used. The childminder explains to children about taking turns with resources encouraging sharing. Children learn about the routines as they willingly help to tidy away one resource before getting another out and the childminder involves them in washing toys such as dolls and cars.

The childminder undertakes many outings with children, including visits to local parks, toddler groups and the library. Children also visit Kew Gardens and the pantomime. This extends children's knowledge of the world around them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder treats all children with equal concern according to their individual needs. Children share their own celebrations and those of other people. For example, they made cards to celebrate Diwali and calendars as Christmas gifts. Children learn about the local and wider communities through outings, such as to parks and toddler groups. The childminder uses explanation, discussion and distraction when managing children's behaviour. As a result, children behave well.

The childminder fosters an effective partnership with parents and provides a flexible service to meet the needs of working parents. The childminder shares her policies with parents and takes time to regularly exchange information about the children with parents. This supports continuity of care. Parents state they are happy with the care their children received and particularly like the reliability and flexibility of the childminder. The childminder provides parents with her written complaints policy should they have a concern about the care their children receive. This promotes the welfare of children in her care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of her role and responsibilities under the National Standards. For example, children are not left alone with people who are not vetted and she is aware of the requirement for all household members over 16 to undergo suitability checks. The childminder records the hours children attend and requests parents sign to confirm it is correct. However, the childminder does not always indicate on the register when children she cares for, before and after school, are in school and not in her care. There are a number of issues to promote the safety of children to be addressed.

All required documents and consents are in place for the smooth running of the setting. Children are secure in the childminding environment because the childminder spends much of her time actively involved in children's play. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection one recommendation was made with regard to the medication procedure. The childminder describes an appropriate medication procedure is in place, which includes obtaining prior consent from parents before administering any medicines. This promotes the health of children.

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 attendance register always records the times that all children are present
- assess the risks to children in relation to the first floor windows, accessible toiletries and the unlocked back door and gate and take steps to minimise these
- ensure the child protection policy follows those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

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