

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138720
Inspection date	05 December 2007
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 their two children aged 14 and 10 years in Ickenham, in the London Borough of Hillingdon. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children under eight years, part-time. The childminder is able to take children to and from Scared Heart school in Ruislip. The family have a pet dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is supported well as the childminder has effective procedures in place for the administration of medication, for dealing with accidents and illness, and to minimise the potential for the spread of infection. The children benefit from the childminder's knowledge of their individual health needs. For example, allergies are discussed and recorded appropriately. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate. All areas of the home accessible by children are

very clean and comfortable. Children are helped to learn the importance of good hygiene to maintain good health as part of the daily routine and through discussions with the childminder.

The childminder provides a good variety of nutritious well balanced meals and snacks. She consults with parents about their child's dietary requirements and preferences. Children enjoy relaxing and sociable meal times as they sit together at the dining table. The children can access drinks throughout the day and the childminder reminds them to have a drink regularly.

Children's physical health is promoted by the childminder. They benefit from playing outdoors in the garden, visiting local parks and when walking home from nursery school.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is friendly and welcoming for children. 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 to use.

Children's safety receives good attention because the childminder understands her responsibility to protect them from potential risk. Children are well supervised and cannot leave the premises unattended. There are good fire safety precautions in place. The childminder has devised a written fire evacuation procedure which is practised regularly and there is a fire blanket easily accessible in the kitchen.

Older children learn the rules for their own safety and that of others through the setting of clear boundaries and the input of the childminder. For example, she talks to children about the need to pick up toys that they have finished playing with and explains why it is unacceptable for children to open the front door themselves.

The childminder has appropriate procedures in place to ensure children's welfare is fully safeguarded. She is secure in her knowledge of issues relating to child protection and has put together a written statement relating to this, which she shares with parents. This ensures parents have a clear understanding of the childminder's responsibility.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy themselves and have fun in a happy, homely environment. They benefit from a variety of activities and play opportunities available to them. The childminder offers planned activities each day, these include, play dough, assorted puzzles, dressing up, cooking, and arts and crafts activities which enables children to explore their imagination and develop their creativity.

Children have access to a wide variety of play materials and thus, they make their own decisions about what they do. They enjoy playing in the role play kitchen wearing aprons and making meals for everyone, the challenge of mastering difficult puzzles, and numerous art and craft activities. The childminder rotates toys regularly to maintain children's interest and to help keep their play provision fresh. She makes suggestions for things that children might like to do and responds to their interests. Children have regular opportunities to mix with other children

as the childminder takes them to the library and local places of interest. This enables them to develop their social skills and confidence, and experience different environments.

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 treated as individuals and with respect. They develop a sense of belonging as the childminder gets to know them individually and they see their artwork displayed around the room. Children access a good range of resources that reflect positive images and diversity. They have opportunities to learn about their local community through routine outings and walks in the woods and parks. Children have opportunities to socialise with other children as they attend activities in the local area.

Children enjoy each other's company and behave well. They benefit from the childminder's calm approach to behaviour management. She remains patient in all her dealings with children and her good use of praise and encouragement effectively fosters their self-esteem and confidence. Basic house rules are consistently applied and children are learning valuable social skills, such as sharing and good manners.

Children are happy and content because the childminder has a very good relationship with the parents. They work together to meet the child's individual care and developmental needs. Children's routines and activities are shared with parents daily. Comprehensive, written policies and procedures enable parents to be well informed about the childminder and the service she provides. However, not all written consent has been obtained from parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in the well organised, child focused environment. The childminder has a good understanding of each child's character. She uses this knowledge to provide suitable care and developmentally appropriate activities for each child. This means they are confident to initiate their own play and learning.

Children are well supported by the childminder who has a flexible routine to include play activities and time for rest and relaxation. Children benefit from the childminder's secure understanding of the National Standards. She has a good understanding of the adult/child ratios and plans her daily routine to ensure she gives sufficient time to all children.

Most relevant documentation is in place to ensure children's safety and welfare. Policies and procedures are used effectively and shared with parents. Documentation is stored appropriately and kept for the required amount of time. A clear record is kept of children's attendance and 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 ensure that smoke alarms, which conform to British Standard European Number (BS EN) safety standards, are provided at every level of the house and are maintained in working order. Also to review documentation to show Ofsted as the regulator and ensure that parents are aware of the contact details.

The childminder has in place smoke alarms which conform to BS EN safety standards on all levels of her home and these are tested regularly. The documentation has been reviewed to show clearly that Ofsted is the regulator and all parents are made aware of the relevant contact details. This means that children's safety and welfare is protected.

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):

- ensure all relevant parental consents are updated.

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