

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138787
Inspection date	29 January 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 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 1993. She lives in Hayes, in the London Borough of Hillingdon. The ground floor is mainly used for childminding with sleeping facilities upstairs. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder does not collect or drop to school or nursery.

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

The childminder has an Alsatian dog as a pet,

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they are protected from infection through the implementation of sound hygiene procedures such as, the exclusion of children who are ill

or infectious. Their health is well supported as the childminder has effective procedures in place for dealing with accidents and illness. Children are beginning to develop an understanding of the importance of good hygiene and personal care as the childminder reminds them to wash their hands after using the toilet, playing in the garden and before they sit down to eat. Children's welfare is generally well promoted as the childminder has attended a suitable first aid course. Therefore, she is able to respond appropriately in the event of children sustaining minor injuries.

Children have their dietary needs met well because the childminder discusses and records children's individual requirements including parents' wishes with regard to food. Children enjoy a range of healthy nutritious meals and snacks which they eat sitting comfortably at the table and enjoy sociable time with each other. The childminder encourages children to take frequent drinks throughout the day. As a result, children begin to understand the different aspects of a healthy lifestyle.

Children have opportunities to play outside, enjoy the fresh air and take regular physical exercise. The childminder takes the children to the park and for walks in the locality. Children are developing their physical skills through using the ride on toys in the garden. They especially enjoy splashing in the puddles in their boots and making muddy footprints.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is welcoming for children. Space has been organised to help children to explore independently and to rest, eat and play comfortably. Children independently select activities from a satisfactory range of resources. The equipment and toys are in good condition, clean and are checked regularly by the childminder to ensure they are safe for the children.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment where risks are identified, reduced and appropriate safety equipment is in place. There is a fire blanket in the kitchen and smoke alarms on each level of the home. The childminder has devised an emergency evacuation plan. However, this has not been practised with children to ensure they can be evacuated quickly from the premises, if necessary. Children are beginning to gain an awareness of their own safety, being reminded to be careful during play. They learn how to keep safe on the road as the childminder teaches the children to cross roads safely.

Children's welfare is safeguarded through the childminder's sound understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection. She is aware of the possible symptoms and signs of potential abuse and the procedures for reporting any concerns.

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 good variety of activities and different play opportunities. The childminder offers planned activities each week linked to a topic, such as the planets and weather. Children enjoy sitting together, rolling and cutting out moon and star shapes in brightly coloured dough. They also create their own pictures with stencils and sticking paper and items from the collage materials provided. This enables children to explore their imagination and develop their creativity.

Children are confident and very settled in the childminder's home. They enjoy themselves as they proudly show their pictures of the solar system and name the planets. Effective organisation of resources allows children to see what is available and enables young children to help themselves from a variety of interesting resources. This encourages children to be independent.

Children have good opportunities to play in the garden in fine weather and develop their physical skills by riding the wheeled toys and playing on the swing. They also enjoy putting on their boots to splash in the puddles and make muddy footprints.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are confident and happy in the childminder's home. The childminder is aware of their individual needs and routines and meets them accordingly, which fosters their feelings of security and familiarity. Children are beginning to become aware of the world they live in because the childminder provides toys and resources reflecting different cultures such as, books, puzzles and dolls. Children are able to feel good about themselves and develop their self-image as the childminder has a positive attitude towards inclusion.

Children's behaviour is good. They are well supported in their behaviour by the childminder. She has consistent boundaries and regular routines which give the children a positive sense of security because they know what is going to happen next throughout the day. With help from the childminder the children are learning to respect one another and take turns. The childminder gives appropriate praise for the children's efforts and achievements.

The childminder provides a flexible service to parents. She has formed a positive relationship with them, working in partnership to ensure consistent care is given to the children. This contributes significantly to the children's wellbeing. The childminder gives daily verbal and monthly written feedback to the parents so that they know how their children are progressing and developing. Most of the required documentation is shared with parents. However, not all parental consents are kept. The childminder has a written complaints procedure in place, which ensure parents are aware of the procedure to follow if they have concerns.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and comfortable whilst in the care of the childminder. This means that they are confident to initiate their own play and learning. The home is organised to allow the children the freedom to move about and play safely. Children are happy and confident because they receive plenty of individual care and attention to promote their emotional wellbeing. The childminder organises the day to include a variety of home based play activities and physical exercise outside, through trips to the park and playing in the garden. This helps in the children's progress and development.

Most documentation, to ensure the welfare and care of the children, is stored securely and made available for inspection. However, the attendance register does not currently show the children's actual hours of attendance. The childminder regularly shares these documents with parents, which keeps them informed about the service offered. 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 become more familiar with the child protection procedure for making a referral and the written record of injuries, which a child arrives with. It was also recommended the childminder continue to add to the resources which promote positive images of diversity. In addition, she was asked to improve the procedures for administering medication and the recording of accidents.

The childminder has increased her knowledge and understanding regarding child protection issues and has the appropriate documentation in place for reference. Also a written record is kept if a child arrives with an injury. As a result, children are better protected and safeguarded. The childminder has expanded her multi cultural resources to help children gain awareness of the wider world in which we live and offers activities that link to different traditions and festivals. Also the childminder has updated her documentation to include the procedure for administering medication and the recording of accidents. This ensure that children's 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

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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):

- practise the emergency evacuation plan
- consolidate parental permission forms and children's documentation
- ensure an accurate record is kept of children's attendance.

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