

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	147750
Inspection date	29 November 2007
Inspector	Julie Biddle
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 outstanding. 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 1992. She lives with her husband two adult children and two younger children in the London Borough of Harrow. The ground floor areas are used for childminding. Children have a fully enclosed garden to play in.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children. There are currently three children on roll. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a home that is clean and well-maintained. The childminder has a thorough understanding of the importance of good personal hygiene as the childminder guides them, for example, about why it is important to wash their hands regularly and to cover their mouths when they cough. They stay healthy because the childminder implements effective procedures to ensure good standards of hygiene and to minimise the spread of infection. For instance, she washes her hands at appropriate times.

Children have good opportunities to spend time outside in the fresh air, to be active and develop their physical skills. The childminder regularly takes children out for walks and includes outings to local parks as part of the childminding day. Children can also 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. Indoors, children move around freely and with great confidence. Children rest in warm, comfortable surroundings. They settle well because the childminder seeks relevant information from parents about their individual sleep routines and abides by these.

Children enjoy healthy varied meals and snacks, for example, children have a wonderful time eating a juicy Satsuma. Their dietary needs are met because the childminder liaises closely with parents to ensure she is aware of children's likes and dislikes. Children are regularly offered drinks of water. Children are able to sit comfortably as they eat their meals and enjoy a social time with each other and the childminder.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from being cared for in a very safe environment. The childminder is very vigilant about safety in her home and garden to ensure children are safe and secure. For example, the childminder has a comprehensive fire evacuation procedure and children practise how to leave the premises safely. The childminder has extended the children's understanding of fire prevention with a visit to the fire station. Children learn about the importance of staying safe when outdoors. Children's understanding of road safety is reinforced at every opportunity, in addition the childminder reinforces stranger danger with the children.

The childminder also supervises young children's play to ensure their overall safety is maintained. Children enjoy the opportunity to play with a range of resources that offers both stimulation and fun. They readily help themselves to items that are displayed appealingly for them and promote progress in all areas of development.

Children's welfare is further safeguarded as the childminder understands the importance of being vigilant for the signs that could indicate a child was being abused. She has a good understanding of the procedure to follow to report any concerns that may arise, consistent and regularly training means the childminder has the most current knowledge.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very settled and extremely confident within the childminder's home. They have a very close caring and happy relationship with the childminder, meaning they develop a sense of trust and a strong sense of self. The children make excellent progress because the childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child. Toys and activities engage the children's attention and encourage learning. Children are motivated and thoroughly enjoy a free choice of toys and activities, they are also able to extend this into the garden. Children thoroughly enjoy their regular creative opportunities, they have a wonderful time as they make shakers with pasta, they use spoons and whisks to add to their enjoyment. Children gain in confidence and build on their social skills as the childminder provides opportunities for them to meet with other children and experience different environments, for example, at toddler groups.

The children gain much benefit from the childminder's good knowledge and understanding of child development. Children receive much stimulation, excitement and enjoyment in their play. Interaction between the children and the childminder is of high quality. The childminder shows enthusiastic interest in the children and responds quickly to requests and questions. Children develop their vocabulary skills as the childminder asks children questions and encourages them to talk as they play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are developing good self-esteem and confidence as the childminder values and respects their individuality, and is aware of their different needs. She knows the children extremely well, meaning that she is able to provide for them and ensure their needs are constantly met.

Children's behaviour is good. The busy day they spend with the childminder ensures they are kept involved and interested. Age appropriate and positive strategies are used to manage any difficulties that may arise. Children learn the boundaries for acceptable behaviour in ways they understand. She reacts gently and positively to develop children's learning of right and wrong, thus encouraging the children to play harmoniously together.

Children thoroughly enjoy trips in the local community to parks, libraries and toddler groups. The children have very good opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the wider world through the varied range of activities and resources available.

Children benefit from the excellent partnership with parents which contributes significantly to children's wellbeing. She understands how effective communication with them has a positive impact upon the children as the care given is appropriate and consistent. A daily diary containing all relevant information about the child and the routine of the day is exchanged between the childminder and the parent to keep everyone well-informed. Parents are welcomed into the home and given a wide range of information about the service provided, meaning they can make an informed choice of childcare. Parents very positive comments about the care include, 'she has a wonderful way of interacting with the children'.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is greatly enhanced by the exceptional quality of the organisation of the setting. The home is extremely well organised to provide the optimum benefit for the children. All the required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and wellbeing are in place and regularly reviewed. Clear, concise policies and procedures are shared with parents keeping them well informed about the service provided and allowing them to make informed choices. Records are maintained to keep parents well informed about their child's progress This contributes to excellent continuity of care. Children enjoy their time with the childminder, there is lots of laughter and fun as they play together.

Children benefit from a highly motivated and skilled childminder, who is committed to improvement and development. The childminder has attended many relevant training courses and is very keen to constantly develop her knowledge and skills to benefit children. For example, she regularly attends childminders' forums to keep up-to-date with current issues.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to enable children to select more toys and equipment independently. She has done this and children can now self select toys and resources from boxes and low shelves, and so gaining independence.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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