

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	159860
Inspection date	29 October 2007
Inspector	Daphne Prescott

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 2001. She lives with her two adult children and one younger child aged nine years in Neasden in the London Borough of Brent. Part of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler groups and is a member of the local childminding network and the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and welcoming family home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. For example, daily hygiene routines help children to learn

about the importance of washing their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Children's welfare is promoted as the childminder has suitable procedures in place for accidents and medication which ensures that children are well cared for. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate therefore; children receive appropriate treatment in an emergency. However, written parental permission has not been requested for the seeking of any necessary emergency treatment for children's wellbeing.

Children's individual dietary requirements are met as these are discussed with their parents. The childminder holds a food and hygiene certificate and the children enjoy freshly prepared foods, such as vegetables, rice and pasta. At snack time they sit and enjoy eating a variety of fresh fruit and can independently access drinking water throughout the day, as they have their own individual beakers so that they do not remain thirsty.

Children enjoy a good range of outdoor activities which contribute to their good health. They are provided with activities to help them develop their physical skills. For example, they have opportunities to run around and play in the garden. They enjoy outings to the local park and daily walks, where they benefit from plenty of fresh air and exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment which is suitably maintained. There is a range of toys and equipment to meet the needs of the children and suitable space in which they can play, rest and eat comfortably. Children are able to self select toys for themselves from boxes arranged at their level and displayed on the floor, which encourages their independence. They are also encouraged to help tidy away toys, which develops their independence further.

Children are cared for in a child focused environment where most risks are identified and reduced to safeguard the children. They have supervised access to the kitchen. However, cleaning materials in the kitchen are accessible to the children and compromises children's safety. The childminder has considered a suitable fire evacuation procedure which is practised with the children and a fire blanket and smoke alarms are in place which helps towards keeping them safe. Children are beginning to learn how to keep safe on the road as the childminder teaches the children to cross roads safely. Parents are aware that children go out regularly to different places of interest. However, the childminder has not requested written consent from parents to take children on outings and to transport in a vehicle to further promote children's safety.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's good understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection. For example, she is aware of the indicators of abuse and the procedures for reporting any concerns. The childminder has devised a child protection policy which is shared with parents for children's wellbeing.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and comfortable in the care of the childminder. They are forming good relationships with the childminder. The care given is warm and affectionate, so that children develop a sense of belonging in the childminder's home.

Children have lots of fun and play enthusiastically with a wide range of toys and activities, which fully promotes their learning. They are gaining independence and self confidence because the childminder encourages them to make choices and explore their toys. For example, they are encouraged to talk and to play imaginatively with the home corner equipment provided. They enjoy looking at books with the childminder as she sits and reads to them. They are developing their speech and language as the childminder asks them questions and encourages them to chat.

Children are developing their creativity as they paint and draw. They go on daily outings to child-friendly settings such as parent and toddler groups. This gives them opportunities to explore new activities and enjoy relationships with other children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and happy at the childminder's home. She demonstrates an awareness of children's individual needs and uses this knowledge in ensuring that each child in her care is well cared for. They are learning about other cultures and festivals as the childminder discusses and provides activities to support children's learning. Children are well behaved as the childminder uses effective distraction techniques with the children and positive strategies to manage any difficulties that may arise. They are developing a positive self-image of themselves as the childminder offers praise and encouragement in their daily activities. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are welcome in the childminder's home as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare.

Children are happy and content because the childminder has good relationships with the parents. They are kept well informed about their child's learning and general wellbeing. Documentation is shared with parents and children receive the appropriate care as the childminder discusses and records individual care arrangements with parents. However, not all the required consent has been requested from parents. The childminder's policies and procedures are shared with parents helping to promote children's safety and welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy, confident and feel at home as they receive lots of warm, individual attention to promote their emotional wellbeing. The childminder organises the day to include a variety of indoor and outdoor play activities. This helps to ensure the progress of children's individual development and learning. Toys and resources are easily accessible to help children choose for themselves and as a result children are developing good independence. Through the childminder's frequent attendance on training courses; she is enhancing her skills and knowledge of a variety of childcare related topics. As a result, children's experiences in the care of the childminder remain positive and in-line with current good-practice.

The childminder keeps most of the required records that contribute to children's health, safety and wellbeing, which are shared with parents. The childminder is aware that she needs to address a safety issue in the kitchen area. Children receive continuity of care as their routines and achievements are shared between the childminder and parents. 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 agreed to ensure that all members' of the household over the age of 16 has undergone the required checks and that parent's countersign injury sheet after each entry. The childminder has ensured household members over the age of sixteen have completed the required checks and parents sign entries in the accident book for the safety and welfare 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 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):

- obtain written parental consents for emergency medical advice or treatment, taking children on outings, and transporting them in a vehicle
- ensure that hazardous items are made inaccessible to children.

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