

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 159870           |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 21 November 2007 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Katie Dempster   |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Childcare        |
| <b>Type of care</b>            | 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](http://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 has been registered since 2001. She lives with her husband, two school age children.

They live in a three bedroom extended semi-detached house in North Wembley in the borough of Brent. The home is within easy reach of all local amenities and is well served by public transport links. The downstairs of the home is used for childminding.

There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder drops off and collects children from the local school.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and friendly environment. They are starting to learn the importance of good hygiene as they wash their hands. The childminder ensures this is done

regularly. When attending to children's personal needs, the childminder is aware of cross infection, for example, using gloves and a clean changing mat.

Appropriate written consent, accident and medication records are maintained. This ensures children receive appropriate care if there is an accident or if medication has to be administered. Children are protected from unnecessary illnesses as they do not attend if they are unwell with an infection.

Parents provide food for their children and the childminder provides small snacks, all of which is stored appropriately. When preparing food and snacks for the children, the childminder ensures the food is thoroughly cooked and allows the food to cool before giving to the children. Meals snacks are provided in agreement with parents, taking into account children's dietary or religious requirements.

Children enjoy a range of garden activities, for example, basketball, tennis, limbo and balancing games. The childminder takes children on regular outings to local parks, museums and other child friendly settings. These activities promote children's good physical health and physical skills.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a clean and well organised environment. There is adequate space for freedom of movement and the designated areas for rest and meal times are suitable. A range of equipment such as high chairs, individual bedding, buggies, age appropriate toys and, materials are available to meet care needs of the children attending.

In order for children to move around freely, the childminder has minimised possible hazards in the home. For example, all low level glass has been secured with safety film and safety gates are in place where children are not allowed to go unsupervised. Smoke alarms have been fitted to each level of the home and a fire evacuation procedure has been devised. The childminder has planned routes and identified these to children.

The childminder has appropriate documents and policies in place along with a valid first aid qualification which includes training in delivering first aid to babies and young children. The childminder is aware of some of the possible signs a child may exhibit, that may indicate they are being harmed and is aware of the correct procedure to follow in recording and reporting concerns. Both the children and the childminder would benefit from updating her knowledge in this area.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the environment the childminder has created. Children have access to a dedicated play area with bright displays and posters and a large selection of toys, and resources are available. Children are kept very busy as they move around the toys and activities the childminder has attractively laid out.

Children have access to a vast range of toys and activities that support their all round development. To support children's imaginative play there is a range of dressing up clothes, car tracks and role play toys including a play kitchen with tins and baskets. Children paint, sew,

make magnets and experiment with music and sounds to develop their creative development. There is also a range of books, educational toys, number flash cards and a number musical mat. These support children's number and letter skills from a young age.

The childminder provides toys for the younger children, for example, rattles, interactive toys and lots of soft toys. Large blankets and soft cushions have been laid on the floor providing a relaxing environment for babies to roll around and explore safely. When playing with the younger children, the childminder imitates noises and repeats words, offering lots of encouragement and enthusiasm. Children enjoy lots of cuddles and affection from the childminder.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder takes steps to promote awareness of the wider community by providing a small selection of toys and resources portraying different cultures, religions and other positive images. Children enjoy celebrating various festivals and other occasions as they make Diwali, Eid and Christmas cards. Parents are asked to bring in objects from home when celebrating festivals, this helps develop children's self worth and esteem.

Children benefit from the good relationship between the childminder and parents. The childminder keeps a daily diary for each child which is shared with the parents. It includes information on sleeping patterns, what they have eaten and other relevant information. This supports children's individual needs, ensures children receive consistent care, and helps them feel a sense of security and belonging.

Children are very busy playing and engaging in activities, therefore are well behaved. The childminder offers lots of praise and encouragement during positive behaviour and uses stickers and choice of activity as a reward.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a warm and welcoming atmosphere and happily explore in an environment that is safe and child centred. Documentation to ensure the welfare and care of the children is stored securely and made available for inspection. The childminder regularly shares these with parents, which keeps them well informed about the care that is provided. She also has some written policies and procedures in place which promote children's safety and well-being. The childminder is aware that records must be maintained if complaints are received.

Children's welfare, care and development needs are met as the childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of caring for children. She is organised, warm and affectionate towards the children who are relaxed and happy in her care. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the quality and standards of care were judged satisfactory. Two non-regulatory actions and one recommendation were raised.

To ensure persons over the age of 16 years living at the home undergo checks including criminal records checks. Also to complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children. The recommendation was to ensure children are not exposed to hazards in the garden.

Since the last inspection, the childminder has completed criminal record checks for those people in the home that have turned 16, and certificates were seen. The childminder has also completed a first aid course that is specific to young children and infants and has also made the garden safe for children by removing hazardous plants and securely locking the shed and side gates.

### **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):

- increase knowledge and understanding of child protection in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)