

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160142
Inspection date	04 March 2008
Inspector	Elizabeth Juon

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 registered in 2001. She lives with her child aged nine years in Greenford, within the London borough of Ealing. The whole of the first floor maisonette is available for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden and a fenced balcony, available for outside play.

The childminder's registration is to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and she is currently minding two children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder goes to the local school, Oldfield Primary School to take and collect children. She attends a local toddler group and takes children to the park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well organised home. They are encouraged to adopt suitable personal hygiene practices such as washing their hands before meals. The childminder promotes their independent self care skills by providing a step to reach the hand basin. Children can rest and sleep in comfort and safety; the childminder provides clean bed linen for the cot. Procedures

are in place for cleaning toys, work surfaces and the nappy changing mat with an anti bacterial cleaner to minimise the risk of cross contamination and protect children's health. The childminder has a current first aid certificate to ensure children receive appropriate treatment in the event of an accident. Appropriate documentation is in place to record any accidents and notify parents. Parents provide written consent to seek emergency medical treatment, but the childminder does not keep information about the children's doctor readily available for use in an emergency.

Children have regular opportunity for physical play both indoors and outside. They are able to play in the fresh air on the enclosed balcony and also visit the park and activity centres, such as, Whacky Warehouse. Children learning to walk have ample opportunity to develop new skills as they pull themselves up using furniture or balance by pushing along a stable, wheeled toy.

The childminder has a good understanding of the need to ensure children are suitably nourished. Children eat a healthy diet with food provided by both the childminder and parents working in conjunction to meet their individual needs. Drinks are readily available to ensure children remain hydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play with a varied selection of age appropriate toys and activities. This keeps them happy and interested. Resources are well sorted and stored to be within children's reach enabling them to choose what they wish to play with. The compact family home is well organised to allow children space to play, eat and rest in comfort.

Suitable safety equipment is in place, such as, smoke detectors, fire blanket, stairgates, fireguard and secure fencing around the balcony. This helps maintain a safe environment for the children and reduces the risk of accidents. Children are closely supervised by the childminder on outings and they are beginning to learn how to cross the road in a safe place and practise the road safety drill to raise awareness. However, the emergency evacuation drill is not practised with the children to ensure they leave the premises quickly. This does not fully support safety procedures.

The childminder recognises her responsibility in safeguarding children in her care and informs parents of this prior to children starting. Current information and contact numbers are available for the Local Safeguarding Children's Board to ensure appropriate help and advice can be sought should concerns arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are able to participate in a varied and stimulating range of activities and learning experiences. Children are well supported by the childminder who is attentive to their needs and enabling them to learn through play. Children have a balance of quiet or active experiences, such as, story time, completing puzzles or playing in activity centres on large play equipment. Children make progress as they learn to recognise their colours or improve their language and communication skills. The childminder listens to the children and helps them to repeat new words in their conversation. Children receive praise for their achievements to raise their self-esteem. Children's art work is displayed and a child was very pleased to say, 'that's mine', proudly showing a picture. Children have regular opportunity to socialise with other children at toddler groups or with the childminder's friends. The children are settled and content with

the childminder and are confident to come to her for comfort and support. The childminder knows the children well and values their individual ability and personality.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children demonstrate a sense of belonging in the childminder's home. They settle well and are self-assured, confident and secure in the childminder's care. The childminder respects the children's routine and cares for their individual needs. The childminder provides a range of activities and outings to introduce children to the local community. This helps to foster their understanding of the wider world. Children have access to books which promote positive images of diversity.

The childminder's realistic expectations, use of praise and distraction help children to behave well. She gently guides the children and helps them to play cooperatively; they are beginning to learn how to share and take turns.

Children benefit from the childminder's friendly partnership with their parents. The childminder maintains information on children on the business agreement form and all the required parental consents are in place to safeguard children's wellbeing. However, the children's records are not available to provide information on the child's doctor or details of any medical needs. There is a daily exchange of verbal information to ensure parents are fully consulted and involved in the care their children receive during their time at the childminder's. However, parents do not have information on the contact details for Ofsted, or the procedure to follow should they have a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder makes effective use of the available space and organises the children's routine well, by providing activities to meet the needs of the children attending so they are able to play, rest, eat and socialise in comfort. Children receive consistent care and attention from the childminder, contributing to them feeling settled and secure. The childminder has completed vetting and suitability checks to ensure children are well protected. She attends relevant training to update her knowledge to benefit the children. The overall safety of the environment helps to promote children's independence in the home. However, at present the evacuation drill is not practised to help keep children safe.

The childminder provides a record of children's attendance and maintains appropriate adult to child ratios which safeguard children's welfare. All legally required documentation that contributes to children's health, safety and wellbeing is in place, although neither children's detail forms or contact information for the regulator, Ofsted are readily available. The registration certificate is displayed during childminding hours. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Care inspection the childminder was asked to practice a fire evacuation procedure, so children are prepared should an emergency situation were to arise.

The childminder made initial improvements by practising the evacuation with children who previously attended but has not practised the drill with children minded presently. Therefore, this remains an area for improvement to safeguard 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 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 satisfactory. 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):

- devise and practise an emergency escape plan
- ensure that children's GP contact details are recorded and readily available
- ensure a system is in place to provide parents with the contact details of the regulator, Ofsted and information on the procedure to follow should they have a complaint

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