

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	403857
Inspection date	12 March 2008
Inspector	Lisa-Marie Jones
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?

This childminder has been registered since 2001. She lives with her husband and child aged eight years. They live in a ground floor maisonette on a residential estate in Hampton, Middlesex.

Children have access to the entire home, though are deterred from entering the bedrooms. There is a secure enclosed garden available for outdoor play. It was agreed at the inspection to increase her minded numbers to four children under eight years, and six when she is working with an assistant. She currently has two children on roll. The family pet is a cat.

The childminder makes visits to local places of interest, including parks and toddler groups. She has a diploma in Montessori teaching and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children have an excellent understanding about the importance of good hygiene practices, they are aware of specific routines to promote hand washing and hygienic practices. The home environment is extremely clean, brought about by effective written hygiene practices that protect children from illness and risks of cross infection.

Children thrive from a well balanced diet that meets their nutritional and dietary needs exceptionally well. Parents have the option to provide their own meals for younger children and babies, the childminder has suitable storage and heating facilities to accommodate this.

Children take part in a range of stimulating physical activities. For example, they regularly go for walks, use the garden, toddler groups and indoor soft play area, which all contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are protected exceptionally well from the risk of accidental injury because the childminder gives top priority to identify and reduce hazards, therefore, children are able to move around freely and independently. Children's safety is further protected during outings as the childminder follows strict written procedures and uses appropriate safety equipment such as wrist bands.

Children choose from an extensive, wide ranging, quality play materials that are in excellent condition and are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They appeal to all ages and genders of children. Children have ample space to play in a dedicated play room, which is very welcoming and also opens onto the garden area, where in warmer weather this acts as a free flow play environment.

Local Safeguarding Procedures are fully complied with and the childminder has an excellent understanding of what to do if she is worried about a child. She has comprehensive written procedures to follow to ensure that children's overall wellbeing is paramount.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children develop strong relationships with the childminder, who is responsive to their individual needs. She plans a variety of activities and experiences for all children in her care. All activities support the children's development in all areas and include, local trips, topics and themes relating to festivals, small world play, and a range of art and craft activities. Younger children also have opportunities to develop their social skills through attending toddler groups.

Children are very happy and relaxed in the childminders care, they wander about exploring and are confident in helping themselves to activities. They readily take part in activities with the childminder such as art and craft and enjoy playing with role play activities such as tea parties and dolls houses.

Younger children thrive in her care as she has excellent knowledge of child development and the Birth to three matters framework and implements it well into the care she provides, therefore, encouraging the children to be skilful communicators and competent learners. Simple and meaningful observations are done and photographic evidence is kept to share with parents and children take home their completed pieces of art work.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Equality of opportunity and anti discriminatory practice for all children is actively promoted. Children's individual needs are given top priority at all times, all children are included and are encouraged to have a positive view of the wider community, through discussions and resources and covering topics and themes such as celebrations from around the world.

The childminder is fully aware that some children have specific needs and is very proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. She is experienced in caring for children with learning and/or physical difficulties. Effective steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting, in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties to enable their progression of development and welfare.

Children respond well to the childminder's consistent, calm approach. As a result children's behaviour is good. The childminder uses positive strategies to manage behaviour, which are appropriate to the age and understanding of the children. Parents are always included in setting strategies for the children to ensure continuity of care.

Children benefit from successful and professional communication between their parents and the childminder. Purposeful two-way sharing of information ensures high quality, consistent care. Parents have access to comprehensive written policies and procedures, they are fully aware of the complaints procedures to take should they be concerned about the childminder service. However, they do not have access to a written record of any complaint's should there be any. The childminder is very flexible towards parents working patterns and always ensures she has contact with parents through email if unable to speak to them direct.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a skilled childminder who is dedicated to childminding. Children flourish in a setting that is exceptionally well organised, where children receive excellent adult support to help them feel secure and confident and make progress in their development.

Well written, comprehensive policies and procedures guide and enhance the childminder's daily practice. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection one recommendation was set to obtain written permission from parents for transporting children in a vehicle. Documentation and children's safety has now been improved as written permission has now been obtain from parents.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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):

- keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request

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