

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	137674
Inspection date	10 March 2008
Inspector	Bharti Vakil
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 1989. She lives with her husband, adult daughter and one school age child in Wembley in the London borough of Brent. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play. The family has no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding four children under seven years old.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and homely environment where they are learning the importance of good hygiene and personal care. The childminder cares for children in a way which reduces the risk of infection. Children do not attend the childminder's if they are unwell. The childminder

holds a current first aid certificate which ensures that they receive appropriate attention if needed.

Children enjoy fresh air and exercise daily. There are regular outdoor activities, such as walks to school, library and visits to the parks and toddler groups. These activities improve children's physical skills. Children establish close relationships with the childminder who offers consistent praise. She knows their likes and dislikes and responds warmly to their individual needs. As a result, children are very happy and secure.

Drinks and food provided by parents are stored and re-heated appropriately. The childminder has good systems in place to find out about children's dietary needs, allergies and eating patterns. Children access drinks on a regular basis throughout the day, they are confident to ask for food and drinks when feeling hungry and thirsty. They are happy and relaxed in the childminder's home.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed as space has been organised to meet their individual needs appropriately. A range of suitable equipment and furniture such as high chair, travel cots, buggy, child size table and chairs and toilet step is available to meet the care needs of children attending. However, the high chair is not easily accessible to children at meal times. This compromises young children's comfort. Children happily use a good selection of appropriate toys and learning materials making their own choices and decisions.

Overall, children are safeguarded through a variety of practical measures. These include providing safety gates, covering electrical sockets and ensuring toys and equipment are safe and in good condition. However, glass stored in low level cupboards pose potential risks to children. This compromises children's safety. The childminder has developed sound fire evacuation procedures. The escape plan is practised with children to ensure the quick and safe evacuation from the home, should the need arise.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has sound understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection. For example, she is aware of the indicators of possible abuse and knows the procedures to follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are becoming independent as they choose from a range of resources that are organised and easily accessible to them. They play happily and are interested in the activities provided. Resources are suitable for the ages and development of the children cared for. The interaction between the children and the childminder is warm and positive. Children are confident to approach her for support and are able to express their needs without any hesitation. Children are always busy and engaged in a task or activity in an environment that is calm and relaxed.

Children are developing their vocabulary as the childminder asks them questions and encourages conversation. They enjoy listening attentively to a range of stories and looking at books. They thoroughly enjoy playing musical keyboard and participating in action rhymes. They have further opportunities to enjoy music sessions at the local library which they visit regularly. At the library they are learning to choose and borrow books and listen to stories. The regular attendance to

other child friendly settings such as toddler groups gives children chances to enjoy a wider range of activities as well as socialise with other children.

Young children happily retrieve and investigate various items from the treasure basket. For example, sponges, shiny paper, sand paper, shakers and oranges. This helps children to respond to what they hear, see, feel and smell and make sense of their world. Children receive lots of cuddles and good eye contact from the childminder which they relish. They are developing good early communications skills as they respond vocally as the childminder chats through routine activities such as changing nappies and feeding times. They enjoy pressing buttons of interactive toys and respond to music by shaking their bodies.

The school age children make choices about participating in activities or relax after school if they wish to. They can choose to play with a suitable selection of toys and activities such as construction sets, drawing, cutting, pasting, cold cooking activity, dancing and singing or organise imaginative play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are content because they are valued and respected as individuals. Children are comfortable at the childminder's home. Good partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being. The childminder ensures that parents know how their children are progressing and developing. She shares information with them verbally on a daily basis and she uses daily diaries as a way of informing parents of the children's achievements.

Children's awareness of diversity is increasing as they enjoy access to a selection of books and play materials promoting positive images of diversity, and through discussions about the significance of various celebrations. This contributes to children developing positive image of others and experiencing a welcoming environment.

Children's behaviour is managed appropriately and according to their ages; children are beginning to learn right from wrong. They show kindness and consideration towards each other. Children are developing their confidence as the childminder praises their efforts. This encourages them to try new activities in a safe and supportive environment.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a good knowledge of the needs of the children in her care and organises her day and activities to enable these to be met effectively. Children feel at ease and content in the well organised environment. The childminder is warm and affectionate towards them and the children are happy and relaxed in her care. They are familiar with the routines that are in place to help them settle and feel secure. Children happily explore their environment because overall, the childminder has taken steps to make her home safe for children. However, further precautions are required to ensure children's safety indoors.

The childminder is committed to her own professional development by attending relevant training courses and keeping up-to-date with childcare issues. She effectively uses her knowledge gained from attending training courses for example, Birth to three matters framework, which supports children in their earliest years. She is keen to enhance her knowledge by attending further training.

The required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place. The childminder regularly shares information with parents and carers to keep them informed about their children. This contributes to the continuity in children's 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 childminder was asked to: ensure that the incident records include date and full names of children; and provide resources that reflect positive images of diversity.

The incident/accident records include fuller details. This promotes children's welfare. Children are provided with activities and resources that promote positive images of diversity and the childminder continues to do this by using her local library. This helps children to develop an understanding of the world in which they live.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 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):

- assess the risks to children in relation to glass and take action to minimise these
- ensure suitable equipment is easily accessible to children during meal times.

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