

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY267680
Inspection date	18 February 2008
Inspector	Deborah Jane Starr
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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2004. She lives with her partner and four children aged 20, 17, 14 and nine years in Isleworth, in the London Borough of Hounslow; the eldest child attends university. All areas of the childminder's home are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have a pet cockatiel.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding one child under the age of five years on a full time basis, and one child over the age of eight years on a part-time basis. She attends local toddler groups and takes children to local places of interest. The childminder takes children to, and collects from, local nurseries and schools.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder is in breach of her requirements of registration as she does not hold a valid first aid certificate.

Children's health is promoted. Children follow well-established good hygiene routines such as, washing hands after use of the toilet and before snacks and meals. Policies and procedures prevent the spread of illness and risk of cross infection. For example, the exclusion of children when unwell, the regular changing of hand towels and encouragement to place a hand over the mouth when coughing. Appropriate systems are in place for the recording of accidents; records show appropriate care given to children. The childminder demonstrates an appropriate understanding of procedures when medication is administered. However, children's health is not sufficiently safeguarded as she has not obtained written parental permission to obtain emergency medical advice and/or treatment.

Children participate in a range of activities that contribute to their physical health and development. Activities in the garden and visits to local parks help children develop control and co-ordination of their bodies. Children develop kicking and throwing skills using balls, climb a variety of appropriately sized frames and develop balance using see-saws and swings. Children enjoy action rhymes such as the 'wheels on the bus'. They are able to sleep and rest comfortably when required.

Children's dietary needs are discussed with parents and taken account of. Children develop an understanding of a healthy balanced diet through snacks of fruit and meals of sandwiches with fillings such as ham or chicken accompanied with salad vegetables. Hot meals include pasta or pizza with self selected toppings. Children are offered milk, squash or water to drink.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Hazards are appropriately identified, minimised and checked to ensure that all areas of the adequately maintained home are safe. For example, the use of barriers and smoke detectors. Children play with a sufficient range of age appropriate and safe toys. Available equipment such as a buggy meets children's physical needs. Children are encouraged to keep themselves safe when sitting on chairs and occasionally practise evacuation procedures. Children's personal safety is promoted outside of the home; they are secured appropriately into a buggy or hold the childminder's hand when walking. Children are encouraged to develop an understanding of how to keep themselves safe when crossing roads. Children play within enclosed areas when visiting parks and stay within close proximity to the childminder. Screens are used when children play for extended periods of time in the play area at the front of the childminder's home to minimise the view from the road and pedestrians. Gates leading onto a busy main road are secured.

Security cameras monitoring the outside of the premises, alongside appropriate procedures for the collection of children by authorised persons, safeguard children's welfare. The childminder's satisfactory understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse, knowledge of her responsibilities and local reporting procedures sufficiently protect children from harm. Parents are informed of the childminder's responsibilities through discussion.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from positive relationships with the childminder. They are comfortable and at ease within the childminder's home and happily snuggle next to her when looking at books and attempting puzzles. The childminder has a secure understanding of child development and uses activities to help children make connections. For example, children match the colour of a

car with an appropriate square in a Rubik's cube and their own clothing. They enjoy looking at books of cartoon characters and dinosaurs and are encouraged to repeat words; some of which are unfamiliar. Children proudly show pictures and cards made using a variety of craft materials such as, pipe cleaners, tissue, feathers, shiny stickers and foam shapes to the visiting inspector.

Children participate in a range of activities that include, modelling dough, sticking, gluing, cookery, singing action songs and nursery rhymes and occasional visits to local toddler groups and swimming pool. Regular trips to local animal and activity parks, soft play areas, local shops and library promote children's awareness of their local community.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are appropriately identified and met through discussion with parents, such as toilet training. Praise and encouragement promotes children's self-esteem and children are respectful towards others. Age and developmentally appropriate strategies help children understand what is expected of them. Children respond well to the clear, consistent approach of the childminder, settling-in quickly and following daily routines, such as the tidying away of toys. Children are secure within the childminder's home and displays of their own work promote a sense of belonging. Children access a limited range of resources such as dolls, books and coloured pens that reflect some aspects of the diverse world around them. Children participate in some social activities that promote an awareness of, and positive attitude towards, others different from themselves. Occasional meaningful activities through, for example, messy and creative play, music and imaginative play help children develop an awareness of difference and diversity of the wider world.

Initial discussion provides parents with sufficient information about the childminder's policies and procedures and their children's care and welfare on an on-going daily basis. The childminder understands her responsibility should a parent wish to make a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder has insufficient understanding of all the National Standards and requirements of registration. She shows this by not holding a valid first aid certificate at all times so that her knowledge and understanding of first aid is regularly updated and by not ensuring that necessary documentation is completed appropriately to safeguarding children's health. For example, she has not obtained written parental permission to seek emergency advice and/or treatment for each child. Relevant information regarding past incidents to children previously in the care of the childminder have not been retained for a reasonable period of time. Consequently, this reflects a lack of understanding by the childminder. Documentation that is in place is appropriate and maintained confidentially.

The lay out of the ground floor rooms gives children space to play. Access to organised storage boxes from a cupboard under the stairs and placed at floor level enables children to make independent choices.

The childminder does not meet all the requirements within the National Standards. Therefore overall, the needs of the range of children for whom she provides are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the provider was requested to make the following improvements; to complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children. And to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

These recommendations have been considered and limited steps taken to improve the provision. The childminder did complete an appropriate first aid course since the last inspection however, she has not renewed this subsequently. Consequently, she has not updated her knowledge and understanding. She has purchased some resources that reflect positive images however, these remain limited and do not reflect disability. Meaningful activities that promote awareness of diversity are seldom as reflected in this report.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Ofsted received two complaints that required the provider to take action in order to meet the National Standards. The complaints related to National Standard 1 - Suitable Person. Concerns were raised regarding the suitability of the childminder and that an unchecked adult may be living at or frequently visiting the premises.

Ofsted visited the provider to investigate both complaints. During the first visit, Ofsted found no evidence that National Standard 1 was not being met, but identified a breach under National Standard 14. As a result three actions were raised.

Following the second and subsequent investigation, an action was set under National Standard 1- Suitable Person. The provider responded to Ofsted to confirm the measures taken to meet the action set. No further action was taken and the provider remains qualified for registration at the time the investigation was closed.

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.

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- maintain a valid paediatric first aid certificate at all times
- ensure that records are retained for a reasonable period of time after children have left the provision

- put into place systems that support the effective and safe management of the provision to promote the welfare and care of children.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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