



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	135204
Inspection date	08 November 2005
Inspector	Helen Maria Steven

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 was registered in 1999. She lives with her adult son and her daughter aged 3years, in the Harrow Road area of the London Borough of Westminster. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 3 children at any one time and is currently minding 1 child part-time.

The childminder attends the local parent and toddler groups and she is a member of

the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm clean home, but are not always encouraged to develop their understanding of good hygiene and personal care. For example, they are not encouraged to wash their hands before eating and nappies are not disposed of promptly.

Children are able to make healthy food choices and the childminder takes account of the wishes of parents to provide nutritious snacks and meals that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs.

Children have access to the adjacent garden in good weather, which contributes to their good health. They develop control of their bodies by using wheeled toys. Regular trips to local parks, playgrounds and drop-ins improve children's physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children can move about the ground floor of the premises safely as the childminder states all low-level glass is safety glass and a safety gate across the living room protects them from the stairs. There is a fire blanket available in the kitchen, however it is not fitted to make it simple to use in an emergency. The childminder helps the children understand how to keep themselves safe and ensures that she supervises the children vigilantly both inside and out of the home.

Children have access to a basic range of age appropriate play resources and equipment that the childminder ensures is clean, safe, and appropriate for the children's age and stage of development.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure the children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example she holds a valid first aid certificate and has a basic understanding of issues surrounding child protection, in line with local Area Child Protection Committee procedures, although she does not have local contact numbers to hand.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop an understanding of colours and mathematical concepts as the childminder incorporates mathematical language in everyday routines and play. For example, 'here's a tower, this is a bigger tower'. She counts down as the child put

bricks into a box, 'two more, one more, finished'. She asks for the child to 'pass that red brick'.

The children are well settled at the childminder's home, they socialise with other children through regular attendance at local drop-in groups.

Children's independence is not developed effectively as they do not have the ability to independently choose activities and resources. The childminder gives them specific toys as she stores them in the hallway, but she changes them throughout the day as the children cannot access them. Children are not encouraged to develop self-help skills, for example feeding themselves in line with their stage of development.

Children are able to be creative with paints when they visit the local drop-in groups. They enjoy impromptu songs inspired by things they are doing or observing during the day. The children share books with the childminder, which the children enjoy and repeat over again. Through constant commentating and asking questions the childminder is enabling children to develop their language and understanding. Children's understanding of colour and mathematics is developed by the childminder's use of everyday language.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to take turns and be considerate to other people. They behave well as the childminder has a good range of strategies to manage their behaviour. Children respond well to the clear direction, praise and encouragement given by the childminder, for example when tidying up the toys.

The childminder has an open relationship with parents to enable her to gain knowledge of children's individual needs. She gives them verbal feedback daily and is beginning to record written policies of her practice.

The childminder has not had direct experience of caring for children with special needs. However, she will ensure that she works in partnership with parents to promote the welfare of the children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are beginning to feel at ease in with the childminder following a settling in process. Her day is organised to meet children's individual needs. The environment is not always bright and welcoming, for example, the living room curtains remain closed in the afternoon after children wake from their sleep and resources are not organised to enable children to choose their own activities.

There are required systems in place to promote the welfare and care of the children, although there are no entries in most as the childminder reports that there have not

been any accidents to report since the last inspection. The childminder intends to obtain written consent for emergency medical treatment. The childminder is beginning to develop a few basic written policies and procedures and will review them to ensure they are accurate and reflect practice. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to increase the range of toys and play materials to include appropriate resources for a wider age range of children and to reflect positive images of culture and gender. The childminder has obtained more resources which meet the needs of the current age of minded children. However, they are not organised to be accessible and therefore children are unable to make choices.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints to Ofsted since April 2004.

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):

- ensure that children's understanding of health and hygiene is actively promoted
- ensure that the fire blanket is fixed to the wall to enable it to be used effectively in an emergency
- enable children to develop their independence through everyday activities
- ensure that the environment is bright and welcoming and resources are organised to give children the opportunity to make choices

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk