

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	117851
Inspection date	09 July 2008
Inspector	Jennifer Devine

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 registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and two children, one of whom is an adult, in Hanwell, in the London borough of Ealing. The ground floor of the house is used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five and one child over five, after school. She 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 clean and well organised home. They are encouraged to adopt suitable personal hygiene practices, such as washing their hands before mealtimes. The childminder has good procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection, for example, children do not attend if they are unwell with an infectious illness. The childminder is also aware of good food hygiene practices when preparing and serving meals.

The childminder has a valid first aid certificate which enables her to give appropriate treatment in the event of an accident. Appropriate documentation is in place to record accidents and the administration of medication. However, the childminder does not always record minor accidents where there is no apparent injury and this compromises children's welfare.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They enjoy varied and nutritious meals and snacks that are provided by the childminder. Some parents prefer to provide their own food, which the childminder stores and reheats appropriately.

Children have daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise as they walk to and from school. They go out regularly to local parks, where they can run and explore the environment freely and safely. Children can also spend time in the garden and enjoy visiting the pond to see the frogs and fish, supervised by the childminder.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe environment as the childminder has taken precautions to minimise any hazards. The space is organised to meet children's needs, enabling them to move around freely. Toys and play resources are stored so children can access them easily and make choices about their play. Resources are safe and suitable for the age and stage of development of each child. The childminder supervises children's play to ensure their overall safety is maintained at all times. There is a clear emergency evacuation plan in place and smoke alarms are fitted and checked regularly.

The childminder is very aware of safety outdoors when walking with children. She teaches children about road safety, reminding them about the importance of holding hands and finding a safe place to cross.

The childminder has recently attended refresher child protection training. She has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and understands the reporting procedures to follow if she has any concerns. This ensures children's welfare is fully protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled in the childminder's care. The childminder knows the children well, as she has been caring for them for a few years. The childminder has a good understanding of how children learn and develop and provides them with a varied range of activities and experiences. Consequently, children are making good progress in their development.

The childminder is very supportive to children and gives them warm and affectionate care. She listens to and values what they say. This enables children to feel secure and confidently express their views and needs.

Children thoroughly enjoy playing with the Lego and spend long periods of time sorting out particular pieces to make intricate models. They then use their models and figures for imaginative games, such as playing Indiana Jones. The childminder respects the children's efforts in making the models and allows them to display them once they have finished rather than tidying them away.

The childminder provides exciting activities for children to develop their knowledge and understanding of their environment. They often go to the pond in the garden to look at the fish and frogs and visit the childminder's allotment where they help pick fresh strawberries or blackberries. The children learn about recycling and understand about throwing old fruit and vegetables on the compost in the garden. The children also look forward to cooking activities at least once a week when they make home-made biscuits.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and feel secure in the childminder's care. This is due to the childminder having a good understanding of individual children's personalities and specific needs. Children gain a positive image of themselves and the wider world through playing with various resources which reflect different cultures. The childminder talks with children about different faiths and customs and they enjoy listening to the childminder telling them about her home life in Nepal. The childminder has had some experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She recognises the importance of working closely with parents and other agencies to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved.

Children's behaviour is good as the variety of play opportunities available each day ensures they are kept busy and interested. The childminder manages any unwanted behaviour sensitively and calmly, according to each child's age and level of understanding.

Children profit from the good working partnership the childminder has with parents. She ensures that all relevant information is shared each day to ensure consistent care is provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The environment is comfortable and organised to meet the children's needs and, as a result, children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. The childminder is committed to providing a quality service to the children and parents. She ensures she keeps up to date with current good practice and changes to legislation by attending further training courses. The childminder has policies and procedures in place which are shared with parents and consistently applied. Most of the required documentation is in place, except for very minor accidents not being recorded. The childminder keeps an attendance record but this is not fully up to date. The childminder is aware of the need to ensure all adults in the home have appropriate checks completed on them.

The childminder meets the needs of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provision was judged as inadequate. This was because the childminder had not obtained a Criminal Records Bureau check on her adult son, and had no system in place to record complaints. The childminder has now obtained the necessary checks for her adult son and has a complaints procedure in place.

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 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):

- ensure all accidents that occur are recorded
- ensure the attendance record is kept up to date.

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