

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY267680
Inspection date	19 June 2008
Inspector	Christine Bonnett

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 2004. She lives with her partner, two adult children and two children aged nine and 14 years in Isleworth, in the London borough of Hounslow. The whole house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children aged under five years, full time.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a cockatiel and a lizard as pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted as the childminder has a clean home which allows them to play on the floor with no risk of contamination. Children are also learning suitable self-care skills as they are reminded to wash their hands at appropriate times of the day. Systems are in place

to administer medication and manage accidents. However, an accurate record is not maintained in the accident book as not all details are noted. Although the childminder does not look after children who are ill, no information is given to parents to consult to ensure they are aware of the types of illnesses that might exclude their child and for how long.

Children have lots of opportunity to benefit from outdoor exercise as they routinely walk to and from school and play in the back garden and local park. The childminder provides children with healthy and nutritious meals and snacks that take account of their individual dietary needs, likes and dislikes. They enjoy an assortment of fresh fruit during the afternoon, and a variety of fresh food for their evening meal. The menu includes chicken with rice, pasta and fresh vegetables. Meals are taken at the kitchen table to create a social occasion and enable the children to sit comfortably.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children spend their time in an environment that is comfortable and welcoming. The available play space enables them to fully explore the toys unhindered. Children independently choose the play equipment they wish to use from an assortment housed in the lounge. More resources are stored elsewhere in the home and are frequently changed over with those in the lounge to retain the interest of the children.

Children's safety is important to the childminder. She has fire blankets and smoke alarms appropriately located in the home to help keep them safe. She has also devised an evacuation plan to use in the event of an emergency. However, safety could be compromised as the plan has not been practised with children to assist with their rapid and safe departure from the home. Children are learning how to keep safe on the road as the childminder ensures they practise 'kerb drill' and only cross when the 'green man' appears.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection matters. She is aware of the indicators of abuse, and the procedure for reporting any concerns she might have about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their day with the childminder. They spend a lot of time outdoors in the garden, where a current favourite is playing in the sand pit. The childminder also takes the children to the local One o' Clock Club where they socialise with others and benefit from different play opportunities. In the school holidays, the children are taken to Bunny Park and Snakes & Ladders to broaden their experiences.

Children are relaxed and happy in the childminder's care. They become absorbed in their play together and concentrate for extended periods. The childminder reinforces what the children are learning at nursery school. For example, she prepares 'joining the dots', so that they can practise hand-eye coordination as they link the dots together to form their name. She also supports them in number recognition and simple mathematics. The childminder gives warm and affectionate care to the children, they like to snuggle up on her lap for a cuddle and squeal with pleasure as she tickles them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit because the childminder works closely with their parents to ensure all their needs are known and met. The childminder understands that good communication with the parents is important, as it is in the best interest of the child if all potential difficulties can be discussed and resolved appropriately.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards working with children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She understands the importance of liaising with all parties involved to ensure the care is consistent and enables the child to progress. Children are treated as individuals and with respect in the childminder's home. She encourages them to treat each other as they would like to be treated themselves. Some multicultural resources are available to enable children to learn about the world around them. However, the childminder is aware that she does not have any resources that promote disability awareness to enable children to gain a broader insight into diversity.

Children understand the boundaries for acceptable behaviour in the childminder's home as she has rules of the house that she applies consistently, such as no fighting or swearing. This helps to make children feel secure as they know what is expected of them. Good behaviour is praised to enable the children to develop good self-esteem and confidence.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children profit from the childminder's organisational skills as she provides them with fun and stimulating experiences that promote their all-round development. She makes sure there is a balance of quiet activities indoors and physical exertion outdoors. Her home provides suitable play space which is clean and comfortable for children. Children are content and at ease within the family home, and the warm care given by the childminder adds to their sense of belonging. Children's health and safety are generally promoted, and the effective partnership with parents also supports children's well-being.

All the required documentation that contributes to children's health, safety and welfare is in place. However, the attendance register and accident book lack the necessary detail. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the quality and standard of care were judged as inadequate. The childminder was required to safeguard the health of children by obtaining a first aid certificate and also by obtaining written permission for parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for their child, if necessary. The childminder has now attended first aid training and holds a current first aid certificate. She has also obtained permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for the children in her care. As a consequence, the children's health is promoted.

In addition, the childminder was also required to retain for a reasonable period of time any relevant information regarding past incidents to children previously in her care to ensure accurate details were available should they be needed in the future. She now understands the importance of retaining records and will do so in the future.

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 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 children's surnames are recorded in the accident book
- amend the sick child policy to ensure parents are aware of the illnesses and infections that might exclude a child and for how long
- enhance the safety of children by practising the emergency escape plan with them
- obtain resources that promote disability awareness
- ensure children's surnames are recorded in the attendance register.

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