



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138708
Inspection date	06 March 2006
Inspector	Helen Ann Woods
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 has been registered since 1993 and is currently caring for 2 children aged 2 years.

The childminder lives with her 3 children, 1 adult and 2 aged over 8 years in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Her house is in a residential area, within walking distance to shops, parks, library, schools and public transport. The whole of the ground floor, the lounge and front bedroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder attends local toddler groups and meets with other childminders.

The family have 2 pet tortoise.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean healthy environment where procedures are in place to maintain good levels of hygiene through daily routines such as hand washing and nappy changing. Policies and procedures are in place for first aid, accidents and medication ensuring they are well cared for. Children are protected from unnecessary illness as they do not attend if they are contagious.

Children are offered a healthy diet that takes account of individual requirements and personal preferences such as vegetarian meals and variety in menu choices that tempt children to try new tastes. Children are developing well physically through daily opportunities to climb, balance and slide on outdoor play equipment in the well organised garden. Weekly outings to the park and local toddler group offer a wider range of physical activities and social interaction with peers.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a warm, welcoming home where children feel safe and secure. Space within the house and in the garden is well organised allowing children to move about safely and independently. Risks have been carefully identified and minimised, for example, safety gates on the stairs and use of listening monitor for sleeping babies.

Toys and resources are checked regularly to ensure that there are no broken parts to harm the children. The childminder gives priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety outside the home. For example children learn the green cross code and hold hands when walking to school.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety issues with the relevant policies and procedures in place to ensure the children's safety. She has a secure understanding of child protection and her role in keeping children safe. A clear child protection policy safeguards children's welfare and the childminder shares this with parents. She has a good understanding of all issues and is aware of the appropriate procedures to follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children take part in a range of activities, both indoors and out, which are fun and stimulating and aid their development. They have the opportunity for daily walks and visit a parent and toddlers group each week. Children learn through play, by singing number rhymes and taking part in creative and imaginary play. They benefit from the childminder's sound understanding of learning and developmental stages that ensures they make good progress. Daily plans enable children to follow their established routines, such as sleeping and feeding patterns. Children are therefore happy and relaxed, benefiting from a caring environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's self-esteem is fostered through positive interaction with the childminder. They receive lots of praise and encouragement as she involves herself with their play; children feel valued and confident to try new experiences. Clear consistent house rules, based around safety and respect for property and people, are in place, which enable children to develop self-discipline. Children mix socially with others encouraging them to learn respect for differing cultures and abilities. The childminder's good understanding of children's learning and developmental needs ensure she meets any child's special needs.

The childminder and parents form a close working relationship that ensures continuity of care for children. Both fill in a daily diary to enable the exchange of necessary information. Parents receive copies of all policies and procedures and all relevant recordings concerning their child. The childminder maintains confidentiality at all times.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

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All documents are in place according to regulation. They are stored securely and made available for inspection. She regularly shares them with parents although recording of any concerns needs to be kept separate to ensure confidentiality. The childminder keeps parents well informed about the care that is provided.

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Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to practise fire evacuation plans and retain records relating to children for a reasonable period of time after the children have left the provision. The childminder practises and records emergency evacuation of the premises and keeps children's records for up to two years. As a result the children's care and well being is enhanced.

Complaints since the last inspection

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.

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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 concerns are recorded separately to maintain confidentiality.

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