

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY360782
Inspection date	05 August 2008
Inspector	Louise Bonney
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 was registered in 2007. She lives with her husband and two young children in a house in Staines. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder currently cares for one child. She is registered to care for four children under eight years at any one time. The childminder takes children to various parks, the garden centre, library and soft play areas. The family have two cats.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop good understanding of hygiene through daily routines. They wash their hands appropriately and each child has a separate towel. Children show interest in why the childminder

wipes surfaces clean before cookery activities, and the childminder explains carefully about the need to be clean to stop germs spreading.

Children receive protection from illness. The childminder shares her sickness procedure with parents and has a list of common illnesses to refer to for symptoms and quarantine times. This helps to reduce the spread of infection. Children receive support when they have minor accidents through the childminder having appropriate first aid training and she agrees emergency procedures with parents.

Children develop awareness of healthy eating. They have fruit snacks and help to make their pizza for lunch, topping it with ham, cheese and tomato. Children enjoy sociable meal times at the table. This helps children develop healthy appetites. Children have frequent drinks, which helps ensure they are well hydrated.

Children enjoy physical activities. In the garden, they have a bouncy castle and slide and they visit the park daily. This helps support their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in warm and welcoming premises that are safe and secure. The childminder thoroughly risk assesses the premises and activities, such as the bouncy castle, and ensures that hazards are effectively reduced. Children cannot access hazards such as the stairs and cleaning materials as safety gates and locks are in place. Children learn about safety during activities. They talk about the hot oven when baking their home-made pizzas and the need to let them cool before eating. Children learn to use tools safely, such as scissors during craft activities. Children learn that only one child can use the bouncy castle at a time. Children talk about the recent fire drill and the childminder reassures them as she gives them clear explanations to their many questions. The childminder observes when children need more challenging activities and plans to support this, such as by organising visits to play areas with larger apparatus. This helps children develop awareness of risk and how to play safely. Children play with a good range of suitable resources, most of which are safely accessible from low storage units and shelves.

Children receive protection through the childminder having sufficient understanding of the possible signs of abuse or neglect. She shares her written policy with parents. The childminder does not have the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures to refer to, but knows to record injuries children arrive with and when it is appropriate to discuss concerns with parents. She has contact numbers readily available should they be necessary. This protects the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well in the caring and friendly environment and appear very much at home. They develop friendly relationships with the childminder's children and they play well together. Children enthusiastically anticipate new activities the childminder introduces, such as painting or pizza making. The childminder observes children's learning and development and uses these observations to inform planning. This helps to ensure children make good progress and activities reflect their interests.

Children participate in a wide range of activities. These include a weekly picnic with friends, visiting adventure playgrounds and local parks and going to the library for stories and nursery rhymes. The childminder allows children to watch and play when she introduces a new activity, giving them encouragement and a warm welcome when they decide to participate. This encourages children to try new things.

Children keenly select their favourite books for the childminder to read and snuggle up on the sofa together. They enjoy participating in describing the pictures and story together. This supports children's language development as they repeat phrases and words. Children roll and shape dough for pizzas and talk about how they are making a circle with the dough and squares out of ham.

Children at all times show great curiosity and ask constant questions, all of which the childminder answers with care. Written plans show that the childminder builds on children's experiences, such as by taking them shopping one day and playing shops at home the next. This helps to reinforce and build upon children's new learning and experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the effective partnership the childminder develops with their parents. They share information about children's individual needs through discussion and the completion of documentation such as contracts and consent forms. The childminder shares information about children's activities and learning through her observation records, plans and photographs. Parents share the childminder's policies, procedures and records. This ensures parents have a good understanding of the provision and develop a trusting relationship with the childminder.

Children who have English as an additional language receive good support. The childminder interprets what they say in their home language. Children develop English through activities such as sharing books and participating in interesting interactions with the childminder. The childminder observes children's development and discusses any concerns with parents early on, so that they can seek additional advice if necessary. Meanwhile, she plans activities to support the children's development. Children learn about different cultures in this multicultural household. They have some resources such as books and music that reflect social diversity, although there are no resources reflecting positive images of disability.

Children behave well. They are polite and show care towards each other, such as when touching heads in an act of affection. Children know the rules, such as not jumping on the chairs, which the childminder consistently reinforces. Children develop good self-esteem and confidence in the positive environment the childminder creates, where they receive praise and encouragement. This helps ensure children develop appropriate behaviour.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the good organisation of the provision. The childminder plans activities in advance so that children make the best use of their time in the provision, with time for indoor and outdoor play, active and restful periods. Children have space for their various activities, such as messy play or floor play. The childminder develops her provision by attending additional training and now undertakes observations of children's development which she uses to inform planning. This supports children's learning and development well.

Children receive good support for their safety and welfare through the childminder developing and implementing written policies and procedures, which she shares with parents. She maintains documentation well. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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 procedures are in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures
- provide resources that reflect positive images of disability.

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