



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138436
Inspection date	08 November 2005
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 for over five years and lives with her two children aged over 8 years in a house situated in the London Borough of Hillingdon close to Ruislip Manor tube station, main bus and road connections. Local schools, parks, shops and libraries are within walking distance. The childminder is currently caring for 5 children under 8 years.

The children have access to a lounge, dining room, kitchen and a separate playroom. There are toilet facilities available for children on the ground floor. One room on the first floor is used for sleeping arrangements. The back garden has a patio and lawn, it

is fully enclosed.

The family have two dogs

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home environment where they learn about good hygiene such as hand washing before meals and using their own towels. Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They have energy and enthusiasm to play on a range of outdoor play equipment in the garden, in the play centre and in the local park where they can climb, balance and run.

Good policies and procedures are in place for first aid, accidents and medication, which ensures children are well cared for. Children are protected from unnecessary illness as they do not attend if they are contagious.

Children enjoy a healthy nutritious range of snacks and meals, which are provided to meet their individual dietary requirements. They are able to access drinking water independently at any time. Meal times are enjoyable social occasions with the childminder being warm, encouraging and supportive.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is safe, friendly and welcoming for children. She identifies and minimises risks for children in the spacious surroundings. She gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe both inside and outside of the home. Children use all available space well, they access the toys and activities independently.

The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe, clean and appropriate for their age and stage of development. She cleans toys regularly to ensure they remain safe and free from germs for the children.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment where steps are taken to reduce hazards by making sure safety equipment is in place. The baby is kept safe whilst asleep as the childminder makes regular checks. The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare and has all the required documents in place. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and achieve well because she is highly skilled and has exceptional understanding of early years development and using the Birth to Three Matters framework to provide high quality care. The toddler is happy, contented and thriving, showing excitement in Thomas the Tank Engine and a selection of library books that he had chosen.

Children are creative through exploration, are able to choose activities independently, experiment with paints, dough and sticking. Their work is displayed attractively on boards in the playroom.

Children respond to challenges with enthusiasm and imagination to actively develop new experiences such as painting and making marks with paint, crayons, chalk and pencils. Children are happy and eager in their play because the childminder is sensitive towards their individual needs, for example when reading one of the library books and talking about the textures of the characters clothing. A close and caring relationship with the childminder increase children's confidence and communication skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a stimulating environment and meaningful activities that promotes a positive view of the wider world. Children make themselves at home and select toys independently. They are given lots of individual praise and encouragement.

Children's care needs are well met as the childminder follows individual needs regarding diet and routine. These are discussed with parents and incorporated into the planning of the daily routine. Children develop confidence and a strong sense of self through positive interaction with the childminder. They make themselves at home and can independently select toys because they are placed at a low level within their reach.

Information is shared with parents about their child's day by giving verbal feedback at the beginning and end of each day. The childminder uses positive methods for managing behaviour which are sensitive, appropriate and take account of children's level of understanding and maturity.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wide world. Children learn about the diversity in their local community through the range of activities that the childminder provides.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children are able to feel at home in the well-organised environment. The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of caring for young children, which means their welfare, care and development needs are met very effectively. She is warm and affectionate towards the children who are relaxed and happy in her care. The baby is making excellent progress with the childminder as she keeps up to date with new developments in the field of child care such as using the Birth to Three Matters framework.

Children's overall care, learning and welfare are enhanced by the information shared between parents and the childminder. Written policies and procedures are put in to practice to ensure children are well cared for and supports good flexible working relationships with parents. Documents and paperwork are kept secure and are confidential. The childminder meets the needs for the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that the 'action taken' is included in the recording of accidents and to ensure written consent is obtained to take photographs of the children. A description of action taken after an accident has now been included in the accident book and signed consent for the childminder to be able to take photographs of the children has been obtained.

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 are no complaints to report.

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.
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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 Ofsted telephone number is visible on complaints procedure.

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