



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	137646
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 February 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Bonnett

<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 2000. She lives with her husband, adult son, daughter and son-in-law. Her daughter is also a registered childminder. They live in Wembley, in the London Borough of Brent. The ground floor of the 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 one child under five all day.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the

local parent and toddler group and is a member of a childminder support group. The family has no pets.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being in a home that is maintained to a high degree of cleanliness. For example, they can play comfortably on the floor without any risk to their health as all carpets and flooring are very clean. Children are also developing good self-care skills, as they are encouraged to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet.

Children have good opportunities for active play and physical exercise. They are able to choose when they play in the well equipped back garden. In addition, the children regularly walk to the local park and library. Consequently, they are beginning to understand that these activities are keeping them healthy and fit as well as being fun to do.

Children's specific dietary needs are met appropriately because the childminder takes into account the wishes of parents when planning meals. A varied diet, which includes fresh fruit and vegetables, is provided by the childminder. This encourages children to begin to develop an understanding of healthy eating.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being able to play freely and comfortably in the spacious family home. Keeping children safe has high priority, particularly in the event of an emergency. Smoke alarms are fitted and an emergency escape plan has been devised and practised to ensure the quick and safe evacuation from the home, should the need arise. Children learn how to keep safe on outings because the childminder teaches them how to cross roads safely. A weekly safety check is carried out on all toys and equipment to ensure they do not pose a threat to children.

Younger children are able to sleep and eat in comfort and safety as the childminder has appropriate furniture and equipment, such as a travel cot and highchair. The attractively stored and appealing variety of play equipment encourages children's independence by enabling them to self-select what they wish to use.

Children's welfare is also safeguarded by the childminder's sound knowledge and understanding of child protection matters. She knows the signs and symptoms a child may exhibit that could indicate they were being harmed and the procedure to follow to report such concerns. The childminder also holds a first aid certificate.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy playing with a good range of resources that are suitable for their age and promote their learning. For example, books, collage work and puzzles. Early reading skills are promoted as the childminder places emphasis on encouraging children to begin to learn the alphabet by using magnetic letters. Children's experiences are broadened during school holidays through regular outings to adventure playgrounds and places of interest, such as Snakes & Ladders and Odds Farm.

Children are developing their independence as they are able to self-select what they wish to use from a well-presented selection. The childminder has a good understanding of how children develop, and uses the Birth to three matters framework to support children's learning in their earliest years.

Children are relaxed and content in the care of the childminder. They relate well to her and her family and socialize with other children through regular attendance at local pre-school groups. The childminder gives warmth and kindness to the children. Consequently, they become confident and begin to express their individual needs and wishes.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are learning to be kind and respectful towards others because the childminder acts as a good role model. Appropriate praise and encouragement is given to enhance self-esteem and confidence. Children also enjoy, and benefit from, being with familiar and trusted adults within a family environment.

Children learn right from wrong in ways that they understand because the childminder uses positive methods to manage unacceptable behaviour. In addition, as the rules of the house are applied consistently, for example, no fighting or throwing toys, a relaxed and harmonious atmosphere is created.

Children with special needs are welcome in the childminder's home as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare. However, she needs to gain knowledge of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to ensure that she is aware of her responsibilities as a service provider. Children have access to a good range of resources that enable them to develop a positive view of diversity within society and an understanding of others.

Children also benefit from the childminder's positive attitude to working in partnership with parents. She talks to parents about how their child has spent their day. This ensures children experience consistency of care and parents are well informed about the service provided for their child.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a well-organised environment. It allows them space to fully explore the play equipment in hygienic and safe conditions. The childminder also organises the day to include quiet times indoors and physical exercise outdoors. This helps to ensure the children's overall developmental progress.

Children's well-being is promoted by the childminder's effective use of policies and procedures. She maintains all required documentation, and shares it with the parents to keep them informed about the service provided and the child's daily activities. However, details of any first aid administered after accidents are not recorded, nor are the surnames of children in the accident book and attendance register. In addition, written permission is not obtained from parents to take photographs of their children.

Children profit from the childminder's willingness to develop her knowledge and skills and apply them to her work. She keeps up-to-date with current childcare issues by taking advantage of appropriate training courses and workshops in a variety of relevant topics, such as child protection and behaviour management.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the childminder was required to gain knowledge of child protection procedures. This has been achieved by attending a workshop, and obtaining a copy of the local authority child protection procedure. This helps to safeguard the well-being of children in her care.

Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved her hygiene standards when changing children's nappies. This reduces the risk of cross-infection to children.

A further recommendation at the last inspection was to enhance the complaints procedure to include the address of the regulator (Ofsted). This is now included, and enables parents to escalate concerns if they are dissatisfied with the response of the childminder.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

## **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):

- gain knowledge of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and its impact on service providers
- ensure details of first aid administered to children, and the full name of the child are recorded in the accident book
- ensure the full names of the children are recorded in the attendance register
- obtain written permission from parents to take photographs of their children.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)