



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	137656
Inspection date	20 January 2006
Inspector	Bharti Vakil

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 1991. She lives with her husband, adult son and daughter. They live in Kenton, in the London Borough of Brent.

The whole of the home is used for childminding purposes. This includes the extended-through lounge, downstairs toilet and shower room and two bedrooms. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under 8 years of whom only three can be aged under 5, and of these only one may be under 1 year.

The childminder works together with another childminder and an assistant. When working with another childminder may care for a maximum of 10 children under 8 years of whom no more than six may be under 5 years, inclusive of 2 under 1 year. There are currently 9 children under 8 years on roll who attend various sessions.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health and welfare is thoroughly promoted and they are learning excellent hygiene practices, for example washing hands before meals and after toileting, and using disposable paper towels. Young children are beginning to learn about keeping healthy themselves and developing independence as they are encouraged to wipe their noses with tissues from a box which is easily accessible. Children are protected from infection or harmful bacteria by the very high standards of hygiene practised, such as regular cleaning of the home and during nappy changing.

Children's wellbeing is safeguarded very well by the childminder's understanding of emergency first aid and the excellent systems that are in place. Children needing medication are assured of receiving and benefiting from the correct medicine. Children do not attend when they are suffering from infections.

Children enjoy a lot of fresh air and exercise. They are developing very good physical skills as they run, slide, jump and climb. Younger children thoroughly enjoy playing with sit and ride, and pull and push along toys.

They have fun at the local park and toddler groups as they have opportunities to explore a wider range of physical activities. This helps children to gain control over their bodies and develop balance. They have further opportunities to participate in the weekly music and movement sessions with a visiting adult.

Meals and foods provided by the parents are stored appropriately. Children enjoy a range of freshly prepared and healthy meals and snacks that the childminder provides. For example, a young child eats tomatoes, carrot and cucumber sticks with great relish. Children are fed in warm and relaxed surroundings where they are able to sit and eat comfortably. Drinks are easily available throughout the day. Children's individual dietary requirements are well met as the childminder obtains detailed information from the parents. Children are discovering the importance of healthy eating through bright and attractive posters of fruit and vegetables displayed on the wall, and by wonderful opportunities of going to a fresh fruit and vegetable market where they make choices from a great variety of interesting and exotic fruit. The childminder extends children's learning by talking about different countries the food comes from.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are secure and settled in their environment as the childminder's home is warm, welcoming and child focused. They are able to move around happily as the space has been organised to meet their individual needs. The designated areas for rest and meal times are comfortable.

Children's individual needs are met effectively as there is an excellent range of equipment available, for example high chair, buggy, travel cot, potty, toilet seat and step. The vast range of good quality toys and resources are attractively arranged and are all at low levels promoting children's independence as they self select and make choices in their play. The childminder monitors children's choice of toys to ensure they are safe, appropriate and suitable for their ages.

Children are well supervised and are always in sight and hearing of the childminder. They are kept safe by the good use made of the risk assessments and the positive steps taken to minimise hazards, both inside and outside. Still, a few hazards could be accessed by older children on the premises. Young children are well protected when sleeping as the childminder is vigilant in monitoring and checking children who are sleeping.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has sound knowledge of her role and responsibility in child protection. She is aware of possible signs of abuse and knows the exact procedures to follow. The protection of children is recognised by the setting as being paramount.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have a wonderful time at the childminder's. Children are happy and content playing either by themselves or with the childminder. The interaction between the children and the childminder is warm and positive. They are confident to approach her for support and are able to express their needs or concerns without any hesitation. The atmosphere is calm and relaxed, children are busy and engaged in a task or activity. They sustain a high level of involvement in activities as they make their own choices and decisions about what they want to play with. Children take delight as they recount previous activities and experiences from a selection of photographs and their own work displayed on walls.

Children are developing their language and vocabulary as the childminder asks them questions and encourages conversation. They enjoy looking at books and listen attentively as the childminder reads to them. They are developing good hand eye coordination as they practise their early writing skills when they draw, paint and chalk. Children learn about shape and space as they play with shape sorters and fit puzzles. This enables them to develop mathematical skills.

Children thoroughly enjoy playing musical instruments together and singing action rhymes. They are investigating resources with different textures and enjoy playing games with the childminder. This helps them to respond to what they see, hear, feel

and touch.

The immediate and individual needs of children are met effectively because the childminder has a good understanding of each child. They have very good opportunities to progress in all areas of their development as the childminder provides a suitable and interesting range of activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content. They are able to make choices such as selecting resources for themselves as the environment is carefully planned to promote this. They receive good individual care because their needs and circumstances are well known to the childminder. Children are encouraged and supported well to participate in all activities through the warm and positive language used. Children's awareness of diversity is increasing as they enjoy easy access to a good selection of books and play materials. This contributes to children developing a positive image of others and experiencing a welcoming environment.

Children are learning right from wrong as the childminder uses age-appropriate management behaviour strategies, which are consistently applied. They are encouraged to share and to be caring and considerate to each other. This encourages them to try out new experiences in a supportive environment. The use of positive interaction and stimulating activities means that children are motivated, interested and have little opportunities to become bored or disinterested in the surroundings.

Children's sense of security and belonging is fostered well through the good information which is shared between their parents and childminder regarding their routine, activities and achievements. This results in children forming a close and trusting relationship with the childminder. The childminder places a strong emphasis on partnership with parents so that the children are happy in her care. She is warm and attentive towards children who clearly enjoy the time they spend with her.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a well organised and child-friendly provision. They are familiar with the routines that are in place to help them settle quickly and feel secure. The joint working is effective as both the childminders are clear about their roles and support each other well. This has a positive impact on the service they provide to parents and children.

The childminder has good record keeping systems in place to maintain this good standard of child care. Children benefit by the childminder's enthusiasm to update her knowledge and understanding of child care. Children's overall care, learning and welfare are enhanced by the information shared between parents and the

childminder. As a result, they are happy and content. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection several recommendations were made. The childminder has now addressed all of them. Children's attendance records now include the arrival and departure times. This is to ensure that conditions of registration are met. Suitable steps have been taken to make the hazards in the garden inaccessible to children. Children now play in a safer environment. Good standards of hygiene procedures are followed to minimise the risk of cross infection. The children now have a lot of opportunities to make their own choices and help themselves. This promotes their learning and independence.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- take further steps to ensure children's safety, this should include the knife block and the alcoholic drinks.

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