



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	137686
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 February 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Caren Carpenter

<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 satisfactory. 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 1997. The premises is a three-bedroomed house which is situated within the London Borough of Brent. The ground floor of the premises is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden at the back of the premises. The childminder lives with her husband and two adult children.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for three children under 8 years. As well as English, the childminder speaks Hindi and Gujarati. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a clean and well maintained home. Children's good health is well promoted as the childminder takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection. They are protected from unnecessary illness, they do not attend if they have an infection or feel unwell. They enjoy outdoor play during warmer months for fresh air and exercise which promotes their wellbeing.

Children's health and wellbeing are supported by the childminder's knowledge of first aid, and sound arrangements are in place to exchange information with parents about the administration of medicines and any incidents. However, the childminder's first aid certificate has expired. Children enjoy meals and snacks that are provided by parents to meet the individual dietary requirements. Children are provided with regular drinks of water when they are thirsty, which keeps them well hydrated and comfortable. However, children's good health would be promoted by having a choice of healthy and nutritious snacks, such as fresh fruit.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and settled in their surroundings as they are looked after in a warm and welcoming environment. They are able to explore and move around freely and safely because the childminder has minimised all the potential hazards and risks both indoors and outside.

Children have the opportunity to access suitable furniture and equipment to meet their individual care needs. However, there are missed opportunities for children to enjoy their meals in suitable furniture that is available; for example, there is a dining table this is not used. As a result, children do not begin to develop and learn social skills at meals times.

The childminder has satisfactory understanding of child protection issues. As a result, children are protected from harm. However, she lacks knowledge and understanding of the correct procedure to follow in the event of dealing with child protection concerns.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and socialise well with each other and enjoy a secure, warm and loving relationship with the childminder. Babies have an interesting range of resources which help them to explore and build on their natural curiosity. Children enjoy playing with a wide range of stimulating toys and activities to promote and encourage their learning and development.

Children are developing good self-help skills as they choose their own toys and resources independently but are also happy to seek close interaction with the childminder. The daily routine ensures that children have a familiar and consistent environment, which enhances their feeling of security. Children benefit from a nurturing, supportive and caring environment which allows them to enjoy a suitable range of first-hand experiences.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals because the childminder daily exchanges information with parents to ensure continuity of care. The childminder meets children's individual needs well; for example, she follows their daily routine as discussed with parents.

Children feel a sense of belonging because the childminder communicates with them in their first language. As a result, they experience stable and consistent care. However, there are too few resources available to help children to build on their positive identity and to develop an understanding of others cultures and beliefs.

The childminder uses praise and encouragement when children do something well. Children want to behave well because they are spoken to in a calm and friendly manner, and are treated with respect. As a result, children are happy. They develop self-esteem and confidence as they make choices and decisions in their play.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation of space and resources enables children to move around freely as they choose toys,

play and rest comfortably. The warm and comfortable home is welcoming for children. They are happy, confident and feel at home as they receive a lot of individual attention to promote their wellbeing. Children's close relationship with the childminder helps them to feel safe and secure.

Children are protected from harm because the childminder ensures that they are under her direct supervision at all times. However, not all household members are suitably vetted.

Documentation is used well to support the childminder's practice and helps ensure that the setting has a positive impact on children's welfare and care. Children receive continuity of care as their routines and achievements are shared between parents and the childminder. The childminder meets the range of children she cares for.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was required to ensure that children do not have access to hazardous or poisonous plant and to keep a record of any injuries. Children are protected from harm because the childminder has minimised all the potential risks to them. Children welfare and care is promoted because the childminder has an accident book in place to record accidents.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Ofsted received one complaint in August 2005 relating to National Standard 1: Suitable person. Ofsted carried out an investigation on 14 August 2005. No evidence was found that the provider was not complying with the national standards. No further action was taken and the provider remains qualified for registration.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- update first aid certificate
- update knowledge and understanding of child protection issues
- develop children's independence by provide opportunities for children to sit, eat and feed themselves in comfort.
- ensure that household members are suitably vetted
- improve toys and activities which help children appreciate and value each other's similarities and cultural differences
- ensure that children are provided with healthy and nutritious snacks

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:

