



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138748
Inspection date	27 February 2006
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 lives in a house with her husband and 2 children aged over 8 years in the Ruislip Manor area which comes under the London Borough of Hillingdon. She is situated close to local shops, parks, schools and main public transport routes. The closest tube stations are Ruislip Gardens and Ruislip Manor.

She currently cares for 5 children under 5 years, all on a part-time basis, with a maximum of 4 children present on 2 days a week.

The family have no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, healthy environment where procedures are in place to maintain good levels of hygiene. Children thrive because the childminder follows highly effective procedures and practices, which meet the children's physical, nutritious and health needs. Through excellent adult support and guidance children gain an understanding of hygiene and demonstrate a real desire to become increasingly independent in their personal care.

Children explore, challenge and develop physical control in stimulating daily indoor and outdoor experiences. The children are confident to try out new skills, gesture or ask for help. The childminder demonstrates excellent management skills when settling in a new baby; by keeping the baby close to her she was able to comfort and feed her as well as managing to give all the children attention when needed.

Children help themselves to drinks of juice and water throughout the day and enjoy fresh fruit as a snack. All meals are well balanced and take account of the individual and cultural needs of all the children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a warm and welcoming home where children feel safe and secure. Her close supervision of children maintains their safety. She keeps areas of the home secure and ensures safety equipment is in place to minimise risks. Children learn to adopt safe practices, such as not running indoors and clearing toys away so that younger children do not tread on them.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits and how to involve children effectively in organising their environment. Children have a keen awareness of danger and how to protect themselves from harm.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted, for example the childminder holds a current paediatric first aid certificate. A clear child protection policy safeguards children's welfare and the childminder shares this with parents. She has a good understanding of all issues and is aware of the appropriate procedures to follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children have enormous fun and they play enthusiastically with an excellent range of toys and resources, which promote their learning. Children are confident and have good self esteem which is fostered well by the childminder as she listens with interest and praises their achievements. Children express themselves and communicate confidently using gesture,

expression and language. They regularly visit the local library to choose their own books and listen to story time.

The children make excellent progress because the childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child. Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and enable them to be self confident. Children are captivated and inspired by an extensive range of stimulating, relevant activities relating to their needs. They listen intently to stories and join in singing nursery rhymes. Children have numerous opportunities to practise their early writing skills when drawing, painting and writing lists.

Through a stimulating indoor and outdoor environment they create imaginative art work such as making models with dough, printing with different shaped objects and collage with different textured materials. Children have very loving relationships with each other which is based on mutual respect and affection; for example, the children are keen to help the childminder calm the baby by offering soft toys for her to cuddle.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's self-esteem is fostered through positive interaction with the childminder. They receive lots of praise and encouragement as she involves herself with their play; children feel valued and confident to try new experiences. Clear consistent house rules, based around safety and respect for property and people, are in place, which enable children to develop self-discipline. Children mix socially with others encouraging them to learn respect for differing cultures and abilities. The childminder's good understanding of children's learning and developmental needs ensure she meets any child's special needs.

The childminder and parents form a close working relationship that ensures continuity of care for children. Both fill in a daily diary to enable the exchange of necessary information. Parents receive copies of all policies and procedures and all relevant recordings concerning their child. The childminder maintains confidentiality at all times.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children experience an exceptionally high level of care and support, which aids their development because the home is extremely well organised. Children benefit from a highly motivated and extremely skilled childminder, who is committed to continuous improvement and development. She regularly reflects, monitors and improves the quality of the care and education she provides.

Letters of recommendation contain statements complimenting the childminder on her 'meticulous approach', 'providing a stimulating environment' and for 'outstanding support' to a family of a child requiring specialist care.

Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well being is in place and regularly reviewed. These are shared regularly with parents to keep them very well informed

about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to excellent continuity in the children's care.

The childminder keeps parents well informed about the care that is provided and all documents are in place according to the regulations. 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 there is a range of resources with positive images of diversity. The children are able to play with a wide range of resources reflecting positive images of gender, race, culture and religion through books, puzzles and play figures. As a result the children's development and well being is enhanced.

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):

- enhance practice by increasing resources that show 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