



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	147861
Inspection date	05 March 2007
Inspector	Julie Biddle
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 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 1996. She lives with her husband and two children in the London borough of Harrow. Children have access to a play room, bathroom, dining area and sleeping room all on the same floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children. There are currently four children on roll.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care, for example washing their hands before meals and when they come in from school. Children remove shoes when they come into the home, meaning the floor where younger children crawl is kept clean. The childminder regularly cleans toys and resources. The childminder's practice and procedures reduce the risk of cross infection within the home and to the children. For example, she wears gloves when changing nappies and ensures the nappy changing area is clean. Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their good health. For example, the childminder encourages children to enjoy regular trips to the park. Children enjoy opportunities to swing, climb, slide and play football which helps them to develop good physical skills.

The childminder records dietary needs of the children meaning that they eat food that is suitable to their health and culture. The childminder cooks fresh food daily, the menu is varied and nutritious, for example vegetable curry, and pasta with sauces. Snacks include fresh fruit and vegetables. The childminder holds and cuddles children as they drink from bottles as a result children feel safe and secure. Children are offered water or milk to drink throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to a range of toys and equipment that are clean and in good condition. The childminder monitors and supervises the choices the children make to ensure they are appropriate and safe, they benefit from the varied range of activities and are occupied, content and happy.

Children are cared for in a child focused environment where risks are reduced to safeguard the children. Smoke alarms, and fire blankets are in place. Children practise fire drills, they know to listen for the bell ringing and how to leave the home safely. The childminder checks the children's toys and equipment regularly to ensure they remain safe and clean for children. The children are encouraged to keep themselves safe because the childminder talks to them about road safety. For example, children are encouraged to listen for cars as they walk along the pavements, and to play carefully as they climb the steps to the slide.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection. For example, she is aware of the indicators of abuse and the procedures for reporting any concerns. The childminder has attended safeguarding training and has kept herself well informed through reading.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are very happy, secure and comfortable in the care of the childminder. The childminder provides a satisfactory range of toys and activities. Children play happily, gaining independence and self confidence. The childminder encourages them to make choices and explore their toys which are easy to access and good fun. For example, children enjoy playing with small world people, putting them on the see saw as the childminder sings the appropriate song. Children are given lots of opportunities to enjoy big books, meaning they can read together.

The kind and gentle care given by the childminder enables children to develop a sense of belonging and trust. The childminder gives the children plenty of cuddles so that they feel safe and secure. Interaction between the childminder and children is natural and fun. The children responded with giggles as they rolled a ball to the childminder and she rolled it back to them. The childminder responds to children's requests and needs effectively. She encourages the children to gain control of their bodies through the different activities offered. For example, listening to music and dancing as they sit on her knee. Children enjoy opportunities to socialise with other children as they play together in the local park.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are very happy at the childminder's home. They are familiar with the daily routine which enables them to feel safe and secure. They enjoy positive relationships with the childminder. As children are fully engaged in meaningful play, their behaviour is good. The childminder uses effective distraction techniques with the children and positive strategies to manage any difficulties that may arise. The children are developing a positive self-image of themselves as the childminder offers lots of praise and encouragement in their daily activities. The children are enjoying experiences that enhance their knowledge of the wider world, however, there are limited resources to reflect this.

Children are valued and their individual needs are met as the childminder has an effective settling in routine. The routine means that both she, the child and their parents learn to know each other. The childminder has developed a good relationship with parents meaning that the care given to children is consistent. Parents are given daily feedback of the days events and their children's achievements.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy, confident and feel at home with the childminder as they receive lots of warm, individual attention to promote their all round wellbeing. They have space to move around freely and play with the different toys and resources provided. Children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder as she has a sound knowledge and understanding of their needs.

Documentation is organised appropriately. The childminder keeps the required records that contribute to children's health, safety and wellbeing, which are shared with parents. Children receive continuity of care as their routines and achievements are shared between the childminder and parents. The childminder keeps a daily register however, hours of attendance are not recorded.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to gain knowledge of local area child protection guidelines. The childminder has attended appropriate training and has gained further information through booklets supplied by the local authority. This means children are safe and protected when in the care of the childminder. The childminder was also asked to ensure children have access to resources that promote equality of opportunity and the wider world. The childminder has started to do this, meaning children are beginning to have an understanding of the wider world.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- ensure the hours of children's attendance is recorded
- continue to extend the range of resources that promote equality of opportunity and reflect the wider world

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