



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	147995
Inspection date	09 August 2005
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 1996. She lives with her partner and two children, aged ten and three years, in the London Borough of Harrow. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time; she is currently minding two children under eight years old and two over eight years old. The childminder is not registered for overnight care. She drives to local schools to take and collect children and attends a local toddler group. She is a member of the

National Childminding Association. The family has one cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is well promoted as the childminder sustains good levels of hygiene. They learn about the importance of covering their mouths when sneezing and washing their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Children are protected from unnecessary illness as they do not attend if they have an infection. Their welfare is protected because the childminder has implemented sound procedures for accidents and medication and she holds a current first aid certificate.

Children enjoy a range of freshly prepared and nutritionally balanced snacks and meals, which are provided to meet their individual dietary requirements. They are fed in warm and relaxed surroundings where they are able to sit and eat comfortably. Children are able to access drinking water at any time.

Children benefit from regular outdoor exercise as they enjoy playing in the garden, for example, they thoroughly enjoy jumping on the trampoline, chasing each other and kicking a football, which helps improve their physical skills. They have fun at the local park and at 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.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright, warm and welcoming home. They are relaxed, as space has been organised to meet their individual needs appropriately. They are able to explore and move around safely because the childminder has minimised potential risks. Children are learning to take responsibility of keeping safe on their regular outings.

Children independently select from a wide range of toys and resources, which are well organised and stored at low level; encouraging their interest in playing and learning. Children have suitable access to furniture and equipment to meet their needs, for example, a travel cot is provided if a young child needs a rest and at meal times a high chair is available for use.

The childminder has the required procedures and documents in place to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a sound understanding of the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child, in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have lots of fun and play enthusiastically with a good range of stimulating toys and resources, which promote their learning. They are excited by the wide range of activities offered such as drawing, painting, books and fitting puzzles of varying challenges.

The childminder builds on children's natural interests well, for example a child is very interested and excited as he participates in fitting batteries in his toy car. Children talk excitedly about their activities, such as treasure hunt and a ride on a bus to the local shops. Children are using their senses to explore; they enjoy gluing with various materials. Children develop their vocabulary skills as the childminder asks them questions and encourages conversation. This also helps them to think and make sense of the world. Children get pleasure from regular outings to child friendly settings, such as library and toddler groups. This gives them opportunities to listen to stories, explore new activities and enjoy relationships with other children.

Children enjoy a warm and secure relationship with the childminder, which enables them to extend their learning in a supportive environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are content and comfortable as their individual needs are met by the childminder; they turn to her for comfort and to have their requests heard. They select toys independently and help themselves to drinks. They are developing independence and self-esteem as they are given the freedom to explore and experiment during their play. Children have time to be active, as well as relaxing when reading books and cuddling up for a story. They are familiar with their routine, which helps them to feel secure and look forward to their day. Children's welfare and development are promoted because the childminder ensures that she shares information with parents about their child's routine, interests and activities, and follows these through.

Children build positive images of the world they live in as the childminder provides suitable activities and resources. Their understanding about the wider world is extended by regular outings to toddler groups, shops, the library and parks. The childminder understands the importance of helping them to develop a strong identity and feel good about themselves, their family and others. As a result, children gain self-assurance and confidence.

Children behave well as the childminder provides consistent boundaries and offers lots of praise and encouragement. Children are developing a sense of right from wrong; they are learning to take turns and share. They develop positive relationships with the childminder and they learn to be caring and considerate to each other.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare, care and development are very well met as the childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of caring for young children. She is well organised, warm and affectionate towards the children who are relaxed and very happy in her care.

The childminder is keen to develop her knowledge and skills to benefit the children, for example by attending Birth to Three Matters training.

All relevant paperwork is maintained. 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 feel safe and secure. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- develop greater knowledge and understanding of the Birth to Three Matters Framework to further enhance the quality of care and learning for 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:

