

Inspection report for early years provision

---

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 506834           |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 03 December 2007 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Gyatri Rupal     |
| <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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since June 1997. She lives with her husband and four children aged 11, 13, 15 and 16 years-old. They live in North Watford, Hertfordshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local childminding group. She also runs a parents and toddler group. The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years and currently she is minding six children under the age of eight.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are developing their physical skills, gaining in confidence using a range of large and small equipment safely. For example, young children use push along toys in the home and use construction toys to make models. Children learn to control their body as they ride bikes, jump up and down on a big trampoline and dance to music. Young children beginning to understand the importance of good hygiene practices through daily routines as they are encouraged to

wash their hands throughout the day, especially before eating snacks and lunch. Children use individual towels to dry their hands.

Children stay healthy as the childminder practises her health and safety policy within her daily routine. The childminder has attended food and hygiene training and holds a current first aid certificate. The childminder's good practices around the care of children who are unwell or infectious, helps to reduce the risk of cross-infection. She has a detailed sick child policy which she shares with parents at the start of the placement so that they are clear that she would contact them if a child became unwell whilst in her care. The well-being of children is maintained in the event that they require emergency medical treatment as the parents have signed the relevant consent. The parents' consent is also obtained each time children require medication. However, medication records are not always recorded appropriately as some of the time, the childminder administered medication without recording the time, this may impact upon the children's health.

Children benefit from a healthy diet as the childminder provides home cooked, well balanced nutritious meals for tea and fresh fruit for snacks. Children bring their healthy packed lunch from home. The childminder encourages children to finish their lunch. Children's dietary needs are discussed with parents and recorded, ensuring that any allergies are monitored effectively. Children begin to understand the importance of knowing when they are thirsty and are able to meet their own bodily needs as they help themselves to their drinks and ask for more when they have finished.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a stimulating environment where risks of accidental injury are generally minimised. Children have safe access to a good range of play resources and equipment appropriate to their age and stage of development. Regular communication with parents contributes greatly to children's safety. When children use large equipment, such as the trampoline the childminder supervises them well. The childminder provides challenging and interesting opportunities for children to try new experiences and challenge themselves. The childminder

uses a daily risk assessment to reduce potential hazards. However, the risk assessment is not always effective as sometimes the kitchen door is not safe which potentially impacts upon the children's safety.

Children learn to keep themselves safe through childminder's expert advice as the childminder talks to the children about road safety and what they should do if they are separated from her when they are out. She involves children in organising their environment, allowing them to trust and explore their environment fully. Children have a clear understanding of the boundaries in place and the reasons for them. The childminder explains to the children about the risk from fire and what to do if there is a fire.

Children are well protected as the childminder has extensive knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. She provides parents with a written child protection policy according to the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedure. The childminder has completed a child protection course and gives the utmost priority to safeguarding all children's welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children are inspired and eager to learn as the childminder provides a stimulating environment and a variety of activities to instigate their interest. The childminder plans weekly activities and daily routines to ensure children make choices about their activities, and can input their own ideas into their play. Activities are often adapted to ensure all children present can participate and are appropriate for the individual children's development. For example, children enjoy sitting together to make their own Christmas tree and designing their cards for their parents. All children sit together to read and listen to the story book with the childminder. The activities significantly develop children's vocabulary and confidence as they talk about the pictures in the book. Children have a good rapport with the childminder which contributes to their sense of belonging. They acquire new knowledge and skills as they learn about the world around them through regular visits to places of interests. They regularly visit parks to feed the ducks and develop their social skills as they visit local toddler groups regularly to meet other children.

Children's self-esteem and reliance is promoted by the childminder who encourages children to participate and praises them for their efforts and achievements. She plays with the children at their level and is secure when letting the children lead an activity. Children naturally learn to count, recognise shapes and colours within their daily play. They build with construction bricks and use their imagination for role play with a selection of play equipment. Young children use mathematical language as they sort out the colours of their toys and count how many cars and trains they have. Children become strong communicators as they explain to the childminder about their imaginative play, read books with the childminder and sing nursery songs.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's good partnership with parents. The childminder discusses her written policies and procedures with parents at the initial meeting before placement commences. She uses discussions and settling in visits to ensure that children's care is consistent with the home routine. Daily discussion and daily diary notes, keep parents extremely well informed about their children's activities and daily care. This impacts positively on children's care and development.

Children enjoy respect from the childminder and consequently learn to respect others. They learn to say 'please' and 'thank you'. The childminder listens to children and finds out about their likes and dislikes. Children are introduced to visitors, such as the inspector. All this shows them they are valued. Children learn about diversity from the range of resources available to them. The childminder welcomes all children into her service and is happy to work with parents and other agencies in order to support children's learning. Although there are no children currently attending the setting who have learning difficulties and/ or disabilities the childminder is able to provide care which includes them in the life of the setting through discussing their needs with parents.

Children develop an understanding of responsible behaviour through the childminder's clear instructions for acceptable behaviour and reinforcement of their good behaviour. The childminder encourages children to behave well, to share and take turns. This is influenced by the childminder's calm approach and the fact that they are well occupied. Children's conversations are listened to and valued and all children are praised for their efforts. The childminder also

acts as an excellent role model, maintaining a calm approach to all issues and treating all children fairly.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are genuinely happy and content due to well organised routines which make them feel secure and relaxed. The childminder organises play which ensures children have a range of different, enjoyable and stimulating experiences whilst they are with her. Children's welfare and education is well supported through the childminder's clear use of verbal and written policies and procedures developed over several years of minding, which comprehensively cover the National Standards. Children's attendance is carefully documented and most required records are in place. The childminder ensures that she is fully meeting the individual needs of all children through continued training and development. She is able to care for children in accordance with the wishes of parents. This helps to underpin the smooth running of her childminding practice. Overall, all children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to improve the outside safety in the garden by ensuring the glass panel on the garden shed is safe.

The childminder has fixed safe plastic panels to the garden shed to ensure children can play safely in the garden and use the garden shed safely.

### **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 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):

- ensure medication records are recorded appropriately all the times
- ensure kitchen door is safe.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)