

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY270301
Inspection date	28 November 2007
Inspector	Christine Bonnett
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 2003. She lives with her one adult child, and one 14 year old child in West Ealing, in the London borough of Ealing. The whole of the ground floor flat is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years. All attend on a part time basis.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends a local pre-school group. The family has no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted through the healthy snacks the childminder provides for them. Fresh and dried fruit are among the variety enjoyed by the children. Cooking activities also provide the ideal opportunity to discuss healthy eating with children to enable them to

understand that eating well is important for staying well. Children's health is further promoted because they have regular trips to the local park, and make good use of the well-equipped garden for energetic physical exercise.

Children play in a clean home, where good personal care skills, such as washing hands at appropriate times of the day, are carried out to prevent the risk of cross-infection between them. Effective systems are also in place to manage accidents, and administer medication.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder is safety conscious. She has taken steps to minimise the risk to children from any obvious hazards in her home. The garden is also secure to prevent children leaving unseen. An escape plan from the premises has been devised; however, it has not been practiced with children to ensure they would leave safely and quickly in the event of an emergency.

The childminder's home is welcoming for children and provides ample space for them to play comfortably. A wide range of play equipment is displayed attractively in the lounge for children to explore. The variety offers fun and stimulation to enable children to progress in all areas of development. The feeding chair and travel cot used by the younger children ensures that they are able to eat and sleep in comfort and safety. All toys, furniture and equipment are clean and in good condition.

Children's wellbeing is further safeguarded because the childminder understands that their welfare is paramount, and that she must report any concerns of child abuse she may have.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and content in the care of the childminder. She understands how children learn, and provides toys and activities to engage their interest and promote their learning. Children enjoy using the play equipment on their own, or with the support of the childminder. She sits with them and encourages their language development by talking to them and extending their play. A particularly favourite toy makes children squeal with pleasure as warm air blows balls out of a chute. Younger children are developing independence and a love of books, as they select them from the shelf, and handle them with skill. A local pre-school group is also visited regularly to enable children to socialise with others and broaden their experiences.

Children benefit from the kindness and warmth the childminder gives. They are relaxed in her care and happily snuggle-up for a cuddle when they are tired. Consequently, children are growing in self-confidence and developing a sense of belonging.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children profit from the effective working partnership the childminder establishes with parents. The childminder understands that a good relationship with parents has a positive impact upon the children. The childminder makes time on a regular basis to discuss how the arrangement is working out, and to resolve any issues that may have arisen.

Children are well behaved. Age appropriate and positive methods are used to manage any difficulties that may arise. The childminder focuses on praising good behaviour with the aim of enhancing children's self-esteem.

Although the childminder has no experience of working with children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, she would welcome the opportunity to do so. She has a sound understanding of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, and the duties it imposes upon service providers. All children are treated as individuals and with respect by the childminder. She knows each child well and gives them appropriate support to ensure their well-being. A variety of multicultural play materials are available to enable children to see positive images of diversity within society. In addition, a range of world faith festivals are acknowledged through appropriate activities. For example children enjoyed helping to cook traditional Chinese food to welcome in Chinese New Year.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's health and welfare are promoted as the childminder maintains all the required documentation and has it readily available for inspection. However, the attendance register lacks the necessary detail. The childminder is well organised to meet the needs of the children, all of whom attend on a part time basis. They enjoy a fun and stimulating day with activities provided for their pleasure both indoors and out. The childminder's home is also well organised to enable children to play unhindered.

Children's individual care, play and learning needs are well supported in the childminder's care and good systems are in place to share information between the childminder and parents. All of which adds to the children's sense of well-being and contentment. Consequently, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was required to promote the welfare of children by ensuring that all people living in the home aged 16 years or over had suitability checks. Checks have now been carried out, and all adults in the home are suitable to be in the proximity of minded children.

A further requirement was made to promote the welfare of children by ensuring an appropriate first aid course was attended. The childminder now holds a current first aid certificate to ensure appropriate action is taken, should an accident occur.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 the emergency escape plan is practised with children
- ensure the surnames of the children are included in the attendance register.

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