

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY271793
Inspection date	02 August 2007
Inspector	Sylvia Dindar
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 2004. She lives with her family in a residential area of Shepherd's Bush, in the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The whole of the ground floor and an upstairs bedroom is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. There are currently four children on roll on a part time basis.

The childminder has three cats. She attends the local pre-school group and takes children to local parks and library. The childminder works alongside another childminder within her home.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children thrive because they are cared for in a clean and warm environment, where priority is given to their health and well-being. The childminder applies high standards of hygiene to prevent the spread of infection. Children are provided with individual towels to help prevent cross infection. The childminder pays very good attention to ensuring that children have regular fresh air and exercise for their physical well-being. Most days they have access to the enclosed

garden enjoying ride on toys and sand and water play. They enjoy playing in the park and visiting soft play areas.

The childminder provides a good variety of healthy, nutritious and freshly prepared meals, such as pasta or shepherd pie all served with vegetables. Children receive awards for eating healthily, further re-enforcing the healthy eating message. Some parents prefer to provide their own food, so this is quickly decanted to the fridge if needed, keeping food fresh. The childminder ensures that parents are fully informed of the foods that their children have eaten through the use of daily diaries.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home where children's safety is paramount. Good use of safety equipment helps to prevent accidents. Socket covers are used to ensure children do not get access to electrical sockets, protecting them from harm. Whilst a safety gate at the bottom of the staircase ensures that children do not access hazardous areas without supervision.

The children have easy access to a wide range of good quality toys and resources. This enables them to make choices and decisions. Ongoing routines keep the equipment in good condition and allow the children to handle items that are clean and undamaged. Most of the activities on offer are age developmentally appropriate. However, a risk assessment for the use of the trampoline has not taken into account the guidance from relevant safety bodies, the appropriateness for its use by children under six years and therefore children could be at risk of injury.

Highly effective practices teach the children ways to stay safe. For example, they take part in regular fire drills. This means that children learn how to re-act in an emergency and can quickly and safely exit the building. Outdoors, younger children are transported in buggies and secured with harnesses. Reins are used on toddlers. Older children are made aware that they must hold the childminder's hand and must not cross the road until she does. This raises the children's awareness of road safety and the importance of behaving responsibly.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy in the setting and have lots of support and attention. This increases their sense of well-being and security. The children are obviously comfortable and approach the childminder and her family with affection. The childminder uses her growing knowledge of the children's abilities, likes and dislikes to plan and provide a wide range of interesting and stimulating activities, which meet children's needs and provide an appropriate level of challenge. Consequently, children are developing at a pace that suits their developmental needs. Children spend their time purposefully and are beginning to learn about sharing taking turns as they play alongside and cooperate with their peers.

Children play happily and are fully occupied and are learning to make decisions as they freely access toys stored at their level. The childminder understands that younger children have a limited concentration span, so she rotates toys keeping children well stimulated. She is aware that the child has favourite activities and tries to extend play by adding interesting resources. For example, the childminder provides a range of balls which are of different textures size and colour as well as those that make a noise. Children are encouraged to be involved with other

activities such as, painting and imaginative play and singing nursery rhymes. Children enjoy handling books and enjoy the closeness of being cuddled whilst reading books. They are developing and learning new language as the childminder talks to them about familiar objects such as the childminder's black cat. The childminder is beginning to undertake written observations of children so she can monitor and plan for the next stage in their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are recognised as individuals and their differing needs are met well. The childminder gathers information about the child's needs and interests, which contributes to their care and well-being. For example, she discusses and acknowledges their likes and dislikes, comforters used, and medical conditions. Children's achievements are celebrated which helps to raise their self-esteem. They are developing an understanding of diversity as they access books and toys which reflect positive images of society. A variety of festivals, such as Chinese New Year and Christmas are acknowledged and enjoyed by all.

The childminder is aware that some children have disabilities and or learning difficulties. She is pro-active in working with children and parents giving them the support they need to access help when needed, giving children the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Children behave well in the home because they are occupied and receive lots of support from the childminder. They are given lots of praise and encouragement, which boosts their self-esteem. Children are learning responsible behaviour as they are gently reminded to share toys. Positive and age appropriate strategies are used to manage incidents, which may arise. As a result, children are becoming increasingly aware of what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Children are well cared for as the childminder is pro-active in her own development and regularly attends training as a result she promotes good outcomes for children. All adults in the household have been vetted and an emergency plan is in place which ensures that children are only cared for by vetted people. The childminder is a member of a local childminding network and takes a lead role in supporting other childminders. Documentation is very well organised she keeps accurate and up-to-date records, such as, attendance registers. This shows that she maintains appropriate ratios. Children flourish and enjoy individual attention, which ensures that their care, learning and play are well supported. A range of well thought out policies and procedures are in place, for example, behaviour management, health and safety and a complaint policy.

Records are readily available, shared with parents and stored securely to protect confidentiality. Written parental consents are in place, so children are cared for in line with their parent's wishes. The childminder takes pride in her work and displays her registration certificate in line with regulation.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to make her garden safe. There has been considerable work done on the garden, which includes a flat patio and large lawn area. All fencing and gates are in good condition and provide a secure place to play.

She was also asked to ensure that all records and information relating to childminding activities were readily accessible and available for inspection at all times. As the childminder is now minding these are now in place, available for inspection and support the care and welfare of the children and comply with regulation.

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

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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):

- further risk assess the trampoline taking into account the guidance set down by relevant safety bodies

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