



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY306648
Inspection date	30 November 2005
Inspector	Kim Mundy

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 2005. She lives with her husband and two children aged 2 and 6 years in Ruislip in the London Borough of Hillingdon. The whole of the house 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 two children under five. The childminder walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks and meals which are provided to meet their individual dietary requirements. They experience relaxed and social meal times as they sit and chat with the childminder at the child-size table and chairs.

Children's health is fully promoted as the childminder sustains good levels of hygiene in her home. They are developing self-care skills as they are encouraged to wash their hands. Good policies and procedures are in place for first aid, accidents and medication which ensures that children are well cared for. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate. Children's well-being is positively promoted as the childminder takes necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, for example, children do not attend if they are infectious.

Children are developing good physical skills as they have daily opportunities to climb, balance and slide on a wide range of outdoor play equipment. They also enjoy outings to the gym and park where a wider range of physical activities is available.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is very welcoming for children. On arrival children are excited to find toys and activities set out attractively and safely before them, inviting them to play. The childminder makes good use of the space available in her home. There are designated areas for children to eat, rest and play comfortably.

Children's individual needs are met effectively as there is a good range of suitable and well maintained equipment, for example, changing mat, buggies, potty and child-size furniture.

Children are able to explore freely as the childminder has minimised possible hazards in her home although, the back garden gate is not totally secure. The childminder has developed written safety procedures which help to keep the children safe. For example, she carries out regular risk assessments and has a written fire evacuation procedure.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's good understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection. The childminder has a suitable written child protection policy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play enthusiastically with a very good range of toys and resources. They are

curious and excited by the wide range of activities offered. For example, as they engage in painting. Children are developing their independent skills as they make choices about what they want to play with. Their individual interests are encouraged as they participate in number games and imaginative play with dolls. Children thoroughly enjoy sticking with various materials such as, glitter when making cards to take home.

Children are developing their language skills as the childminder asks questions and encourages them to chat. This also helps them make sense of the world. Children enjoy quieter times as they listen to a range of stories. They have good opportunities to practise their early writing skills when drawing. They have lots of good opportunities to develop their early mathematical skills as they count and name shapes and colours.

Children explore using their senses as they enjoy listening to music, singing nursery rhymes and putting on a 'show' for the childminder. They involve the childminder in their play while receiving lots of warm, individual attention which enables them to successfully extend their learning and experiences. Children have good opportunities to make progress in all areas of their development and the flexible routine enables them to enjoy busy and quiet times.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are learning to take turns and share. They are very well behaved as the childminder provides consistent boundaries and offers lots of praise and encouragement. Children enjoy close relationships with the childminder and they learn to be respectful, caring and considerate towards each other. For example, child says "Oh thank you" as another child offers a cup.

Children gain a positive image of themselves and learn about the world in which they live as they play with a range of resources which reflect different cultures, gender and disability. For example, dressing up clothes and books. The childminder understands the importance of helping them to develop a strong identity and to feel good about themselves, their family and others.

Children's individual special needs are met very sensitively by the childminder. She is very keen to work in partnership with parents and other professionals to help her to provide good care for children although, she has not attended relevant training. The childminder has a suitable written special needs policy in place.

Children are very happy and content because parents share information about their children's individual needs, interests and experiences with the childminder. Children feel secure in the childminder's care because good procedures are in place to help them to separate gradually from their parents. Children's routines, activities and achievements are recorded in a message book which is taken home daily. The childminder provides good information for parents about her provision such as, her policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare, care and development needs are met effectively 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. Children enjoy a variety of outings, for example, toddler groups where they are able to socialise with other children and widen their play experiences.

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

Children observe good relationships between their parents and the childminder. As a result, children feel very safe and secure. All relevant paperwork is well maintained. The childminder ensures that she carries out parents wishes while providing good care of their children.

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 have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- improve the safety of the children in the garden
- obtain knowledge and understanding of caring for children with special needs.

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: www.ofsted.gov.uk