

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY338726
Inspection date	11 April 2007
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 satisfactory. 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 2006. She lives with her three school-age children, brother and young nephew in Greenford in Middlesex. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five and one child over five before and after school. The childminder walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group. The childminder speaks Punjabi, Urdu, English and Hindi.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy fresh air and exercise. There is a good range of equipment to help them to develop their coordination, for example, push and pull-a-long toys. Children have further opportunities to develop their physical skills when they visit the park and toddler group.

Children's health and welfare is being positively promoted as the childminder sustains good levels of hygiene in her home. Children are developing good personal hygiene skills as they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times. Good policies and procedures are in place for sickness, accidents and medication which ensures that children are well cared for. Children are administered suitable first aid when necessary as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate.

Children enjoy nutritious meals provided by their parents, although the childminder is happy to provide meals and snacks to meet the children's individual dietary requirements. The childminder offers a healthy menu which is shared with parents. Children enjoy sociable and relaxed meal times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and welcoming environment. The space is organised for children to play, eat and rest comfortably. The childminder provides well maintained furniture and equipment that is available for the children's use and is appropriate for their individual needs such as travel cot, high chair and car seats.

Overall, children's safety is promoted because the childminder has an understanding of potential hazards and she supervises children carefully. Most of the potential hazards around the home have been made safe or inaccessible to children. However, possible dangers are present in the garden, for example, a plastic bag, paint tins, concrete post and hanging washing line. As a result, children are not fully protected when playing outdoors.

Children's welfare is safeguarded through the childminder's suitable understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a well balanced range of activities and they are involved in both quiet and active play. They have opportunities to make progress in all areas of their development as the childminder sets up a range of toys before they arrive each day. However, the organisation of toys and resources does not enable children to make choices about what they want to play with or to access them independently.

Children are developing their imagination and creativity as they have fun painting and sticking. Younger children are exploring through using their senses as they investigate the treasure basket which contains rattles and musical toys. The childminder continues to build on the toys and resources. However, children do not spend enough time exploring tactile experiences such as sand and water.

Children are learning about colours, shapes and numbers as they post shapes, do puzzles and construct with bricks. They practise their early writing skills as they draw and paint. Children's early interest in reading is promoted through story telling.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and confident in their surroundings. They have good relationships with the childminder who is kind and caring. They are beginning to learn about other people's cultures as they celebrate festivals such as Diwali and Eid. However, there are limited toys and resources to promote children's understanding of diversity.

Children are learning right from wrong and they are well behaved as the childminder uses age appropriate behaviour management strategies such as distraction and re-direction. She offers regular praise and encouragement to children to help increase their confidence and self-esteem.

Children benefit from the good partnerships between parents and the childminder. There are daily exchanges of information about what the children have been doing, what they have eaten and the general care given to them during the day. This helps to ensure children's needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and child-friendly environment. The childminder has organised the space in her home to meet the needs of the children. Overall, children are well cared for and their individual needs are met.

The childminder continues to develop her knowledge, for example, by attending the course Birth to three matters. She is keen to attend further training courses to keep up-to-date with current childcare practices. The childminder ensures that she carries out parents wishes while providing suitable care of their children.

All of the required documentation that contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and it is stored securely to maintain confidentiality. 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

Since registration, 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 satisfactory. 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):

- take steps to ensure children are safe in the garden
- organise the toys and resources to help children to make choices independently
- continue to build on toys and resources to help children to make progress in all area of their development, particularly to develop their sensory exploration
- continue to build on toys and resources to help children to develop an understanding of other people's cultures and beliefs.

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