



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY341540
Inspection date	09 February 2007
Inspector	Michelle Julie Gutter
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 2006. She lives with her family in a house in Twickenham. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder may care for a maximum of four children and currently has two children on the register. Local parks, shops and schools are within easy walking distance. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has no pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from illness and infection, as the childminder maintains a hygienic and healthy environment. Children lie on a changing mat that is wiped clean after each use and this prevents the spread of infection. The childminder ensures that nappies are disposed of appropriately in an outside bin. Children's toys are thoroughly cleaned to prevent cross-infection. Children have planned times for sleep and naps, to ensure they have plentiful rest to promote their healthy growth and development. Children have their own freshly-laundered bedding.

Children have access to appropriate treatment in case of an accident because the childminder has taken paediatric training in first aid. All required documentation is in place. However, the childminder does not have written consent to administer pain relief medication in an emergency.

Each day is planned to ensure children have ample time to play in the fresh air and undertake regular exercise. Children regularly visit local parks and toddler groups to enable them to extend their experience on a wider range of physical play resources such as the swings and slides. They benefit from going on walks around the local community.

The childminder provides a healthy menu and offers home cooked meals using fresh ingredients. Children's dietary needs are well catered for. Children access drinking water freely, enabling them to respond to their body's needs when they recognise they are thirsty. Young children are held in the childminder's arms and are fed their formula milk. They sit in highchairs for meals at the dining table with older children and adults to enable them to develop good habits in using table manners and develop positive attitudes towards healthy eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in an organised environment. This allows them to move around and play safely. Children benefit from easy and safe access to a range of age-appropriate toys and resources to encourage their independence. The childminder has undertaken a risk assessment and reduced potential hazards to children. For example, she has locks on the kitchen cupboard doors, has a stair gate in place at the foot of the stairs and has covers for electrical sockets. Children are well protected from the risk of fire. A fire blanket is wall mounted in the kitchen and the smoke alarms are regularly tested.

The outdoor area is safe for children to enjoy fresh air and to have opportunities to develop large motor skills. Children run around freely and enjoy playing football in an open space. The childminder closely supervises the children when playing outside. Parents give written permission for their children to use the large outdoor play equipment and for the childminder to take the children in the car and on outings.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection issues and fully understands the procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with interesting and exciting play materials. The children play purposefully with their chosen activity. The childminder supports and encourages them, giving lots of positive praise. The children are confident and inquisitive. They sit comfortably on a rug surrounded by soft cushions, reach forward and grab the wooden bricks in their hands. The childminder sits with them and encourages their play and shows them how to build the bricks up into a tower. The children knock the bricks and laugh when they see them fall down. They kick their legs and smile with excitement. They enjoy cuddles from the childminder and have a close and loving relationship.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's care. They develop in a stimulating environment, where the childminder provides a good range of activities. The children's learning is encouraged and they are provided with toys and activities that are appropriate to their stage of development. The childminder interacts well with the children and directs their play to ensure their short attention spans are allowed for.

The childminder exchanges verbal information about the children's development on a daily basis, this helps the parents to be aware of their children's achievements and identifies any areas for improvement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder offers a high level of her attention to the children to ensure their needs are met. She finds out about the children and their preferences, initially from parents, and records relevant information. She responds to the children and adjusts the routine to meet their needs if required. Children learn respect and consideration for others because the childminder is a positive role model. They are valued and respected. Children have access to a good range of play resources which show positive images of diversity such as books, small world figures and creative activities to celebrate festivals. They learn about the local community through visits to parks, shops and local toddler groups.

The children and the childminder share appropriately warm, close, caring relationships. This means that the children are confident and comfortable in the homely environment and are able to progress at a pace suitable to them. The childminder shows respect and understanding to the children. She provides them with lots of interesting and exciting activities and praises their achievements. Children feel secure and respond well as the childminder is consistent and gentle in her approach.

The childminder promotes good partnerships with parents. Children benefit from continuity of care as their care needs and home routines are discussed at the initial interview. The childminder

has a set of written policies that she shows parents. She keeps parents informed on a daily basis of their child's progress. Feedback received from parents comments of their satisfaction with the good service and support they and their children receive from the childminder. Comments include, "We are extremely happy with the care the childminder provides for our child. She settled in very well and really enjoys the time she spends with the childminder and her family. She provides home made cooked meals and this has meant that my child's eating habits have improved significantly over the last months".

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has undertaken several training workshops to develop her practice and knowledge in childcare. Children thrive in a child friendly, loving environment. They are happy, relaxed and very settled, consequently, they benefit from being cared for in a well-organised home. The childminder plans her routine to reflect the needs of the children in her care. Children receive her attention and support. Good relationships are fostered.

Children enjoy a range of stimulating resources that promote their development in all areas. Resources are easily accessible and the childminder responds quickly to the children's interests.

Information kept about the children is relevant, stored to maintain confidentiality and promotes their welfare. Regular verbal and written information is shared with parents to ensure continuity of the children's care. Documentation is well maintained, although the medication record lacks detail. Written policies and procedures are in place and are readily available to parents. Overall, 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

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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):

- obtain prior written consent to administer pain relief in an emergency

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