

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	137611
Inspection date	06 December 2007
Inspector	Jennifer Devine
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?

This childminder registered in 1992 and she lives with her husband in Dollis Hill, in the London borough of Brent. The whole of the ground floor area and two bedrooms on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm environment where the childminder sustains a good level of cleanliness throughout her home. This enables young children to be able to play and crawl around on the floor with no risk to their health. The childminder has good procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection, such as being aware of food safety hygiene and having a through nappy changing routine to follow.

The childminder has a good awareness of first aid and is updating her certificate shortly. Accident and medication records are completed as required and this ensures children's welfare is maintained.

Children are well nourished with the healthy and nutritious foods the childminder provides, which takes into account any individual dietary needs. Children have regular snacks of fruit and always have their individual beakers accessible to have a drink as needed.

Children's physical health is promoted well by the childminder. The benefit from outings to the local park where they run and explore the environment freely and safely. Children also enjoy playing in the garden and thoroughly enjoy the indoor ball pool where they excitedly jump in and out, and throw balls into the air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe and secure environment because the childminder has taken precautions to minimise any hazards in the home. Regular risk assessments are conducted and records kept. The childminder has a good understanding of having an emergency evacuation plan and practises this with children to help them gain an understanding of fire safety. Space is organised very well in the home. Children have the freedom to move from one room to another where they can access toys and play materials easily. Children are able to play, eat and sleep comfortably using furniture appropriate for their ages. Younger children can rest upstairs in a travel cot or rest on the sofa depending on the parents individual requests. Toys are safe and suitable for the age group of each child. The childminder also constantly supervises children's play to ensure their overall safety is maintained at all times.

The childminder is very aware of safety when outside the home walking with children. She ensures young children are either safely harnessed into the pushchair, or if walking are on safety reins until they reach their destination and can run or walk freely.

Children's welfare is fully safeguarded as the childminder has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and understands the reporting procedures to follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of how children learn and develop through providing them with a varied range of activities and experiences. Consequently, children are making good progress in their development. Children are given many opportunities to develop their independence and gain new skills such as when sitting together at lunch time and beginning to feed themselves. Children are developing important communication skills as the childminder spends a lot of time chatting to them and teaching them new words. They enjoy looking at books with the childminder and thoroughly enjoy listening and dancing to music. Young children are introduced to exciting experiences to develop their natural curiosity and exploration. They enjoy handling the play dough, where they roll, pinch and squeeze the dough and also enjoy feeling the texture of corn flour in their hands. Children learn about taking turns and being kind to each other as they play together in the ball pool, remembering about finding a space to jump into safely.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and feel secure in the childminders care. This is due to the childminder having a good understanding of settling children and ensuring she has all the information from parents to make sure children are content with her. Children gain a positive image of themselves and the wider world through playing with various resources which reflect different cultures and disability. The childminder is proactive in seeking out these particular resources and has some interesting books and small world figures.

Children's behaviour is appropriate for their ages. Young children are kept busy as the childminder varies the play experiences constantly which keeps them occupied and focussed for short periods at a time.

The childminder recognises the importance of working with parents to ensure the children's needs are fully met. Daily information is shared verbally with parents to ensure they are aware of how their child has been during the day. Children with learning difficulties and /or disabilities are welcome into the childminders home. She is aware of working closely with parents and other agencies to offer support if needed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The environment is comfortable and organised to meet the children's needs and as a result children are happy and settled in the childminders home. The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards and is able to demonstrate that she meets these well. Although the childminder has not attended any recent training she keeps herself updated with new information by reading articles from the National Childminding Association. She has written policies and procedures in place that are consistently applied and most documentation is in place. Although the childminder keeps an attendance record it is not up to date. The childminder's registration certificate is currently not displayed and this prevents parents being able to view the conditions of registration easily. The childminder is aware of ensuring children are not left with any adults that do not have a Criminal Records Bureau disclosure.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has made improvements in the care she provides to children. She fully risk assesses her home to ensure any hazards are minimised and this ensures children's safety. She has appropriate equipment such as travel cots for children to sleep in comfortably. She has extended and continues to enhance her resources to ensure they meet children's individual learning needs. She has developed an understanding of the Special Needs and Disability Act 2001 by reading relevant information. She is fully aware of her responsibilities to notify Ofsted to any changes to the premises as required.

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 certificate of childminding registration is displayed
- ensure the attendance register is kept up to date.

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