



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	138400
<b>Inspection date</b>	23 February 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Daphne Prescott
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 1996. She lives with her husband and three teenage children in South Ruislip in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Part 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 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 1 child under 5, and 3 children over 5 before and after school.

The childminder walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children.

The family has a pet dog.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming family home. Their health is well promoted as the childminder sustains a good level of cleanliness throughout her home. Children are learning the routines for good hygiene practices as they wash their hands before snacks. When asked, the children related confidently why they must wash their hands before snacks, because it prevents germs getting into your tummy.

The individual dietary needs of the children are met by the childminder as she prepares a range of healthy snacks. Children's independence skills are promoted as they help to prepare their own snack. They sit and eat comfortably at the table and they enjoy sociable snack times with the childminder as she sits and chats to them. They are offered and are able to access drinking water independently at any time so that they are not thirsty.

Children enjoy a good range of outdoor activities which contribute to their good health. They are provided with activities to help them develop their physical skills. For example, they have good opportunities to run around and play football in the garden. They enjoy daily walks to and from school and learn that fresh air and exercise is good for them.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is very welcoming for children. Children have access to a good range of toys and equipment which are in good condition. The childminder has good arrangements in place to ensure children's safety by checking the toys and equipment regularly. Children are able to feel relaxed and at home as space has been organised to meet their individual needs effectively. For example, children happily sit at the dining table busy creating pictures using different coloured paints.

The children are cared for in a child focused environment where risks are identified and reduced to safeguard the children. She makes clear assessments on the safety of her home, in relation to the age and maturity of the children in her care. Smoke alarms and a fire blanket are in place, which help towards keeping children safe. Emergency escape plans have been devised. However, these have not been practised with children to ensure that they can be evacuated quickly from the premises. Children learn how to keep safe on the road as the childminder teaches the children to cross roads safely.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's good understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection. For example, she is aware of the indicators

of abuse and the procedures for reporting any concerns.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

The relationships between the childminder and children are a strong feature and as a result the children are happy and contented. She demonstrates a good awareness of the children's individual needs and uses this knowledge in ensuring that each child in her care is cared for well. She interacts positively and warmly with the children, responding to questions, engaging them in conversation about their day at school, encouraging their language development and social skills.

The childminder encourages the children in their play and they receive lots of individual attention, which enables them to successfully extend their learning and experiences. They are able to relax and choose either quiet games, craft activities, reading or vigorous play outside, depending on their individual needs and interests. The children are very confident to express their needs and wishes.

Children are motivated and interested in a broad range of purposeful indoor and outdoor activities which provide stimulating levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. For example, they play enthusiastically with art and craft resources exploring their imagination and creativity. They are having fun, concentrating and gaining a sense of achievement with their end products. For example, they enjoyed making 'Mother's Day' cards out of different creative materials. The children are excited and eagerly show the childminder their finished art work.

Children delight in showing the childminder and inspector their reading book from school. The childminder spends time with the children developing their reading skills, giving them support and encouragement when needed.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

The children are relaxed and happy at the childminder's home. Children enjoy mutually respectful relationships with the childminder. Children are valued and their individual needs are met because the childminder spends time getting to know them very well. The childminder provides a range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. For example, she talks to the children about people's cultures and the varying needs of others. Children with special needs are welcome in the childminder's home as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare.

As children are fully engaged in meaningful play, their behaviour is good. They have a good understanding of the boundaries and they know what is expected of them, because they help to write the behaviour rules. The children confidently told the inspector that they had a meeting to talk about, 'respecting other people's space,

being polite to everyone and always listening to other people's ideas'. The childminder uses age-appropriate and positive strategies to manage any difficulties that may arise. Children's achievements are valued as the childminder gives them lots of praise and encouragement which builds their self-esteem. For example, she gives the children good praise when they have completed their art activities.

The required documentation is shared with parents and children receive the appropriate care as the childminder discusses and records individual care arrangements with parents. Children are very happy and content because the childminder has very good relationships with the parents. They work together to meet the child's individual care and developmental needs. They are kept well informed about children's learning and general well-being. Children gave positive feedback when questioned, for example, they enjoy coming here and playing with their friends. Parents speak highly about the childminder and are happy with the care that she provides.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children feel comfortable and at ease within the childminder's home environment. They are very happy, confident and feel at home as they receive lots of warm individual attention to promote their emotional well-being. They are able to make their own choices and freely select resources independently.

Through her frequent attendance on training courses, the childminder is enhancing her skills and knowledge of a variety of childcare related topics. For example, gaining an early years child care qualification and attending behaviour management training. As a result, the children's experiences in the care of the childminder remain positive and in-line with current good practice.

Documentation is well organised. The childminder keeps the required records that contribute to children's health, safety and well-being, which are shared with parents. Children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder as she has a sound knowledge and understanding of caring for children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to gain knowledge of the procedures for reporting child protection concerns and obtain written permission from parents to take photographs of the children.

The childminder has updated her understanding and knowledge of child protection issues. She has obtained written permission from parents to take photographs of the children to help protect children in her care.

## **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):

- practice fire drills with the children.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)