



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138603
Inspection date	08 August 2006
Inspector	Christine Bonnett
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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1985. She lives with her husband and two young adult children in Ruislip Manor in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Most 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 four children at any one time. There are currently no children on roll.

The childminder 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 satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how children's health is promoted. She describes how children will learn about personal hygiene through routine daily practices, such as washing their hands at appropriate times. In addition, there is a minimal risk of cross-infection between children as the childminder maintains a good standard of cleanliness throughout her home. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate.

The childminder has a good understanding of the importance of ensuring children eat a healthy and balanced diet. Although she prefers parents to provide their child's meals, she recognises the value of providing nutritious snacks, such as fresh fruit and plain biscuits. Systems are in place to gather information from parents about any particular dietary needs their child may have.

The importance of promoting a healthy lifestyle in children is recognised by the childminder. A well-maintained garden is available to facilitate outdoor play. She has a variety of garden toys to encourage physical development, such as a tent, bikes and a ball-pond.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder is safety conscious and understands the importance of giving high priority to ensuring children will be safe in her home. Fire precautions, such as smoke alarms and a fire blanket are in place. An emergency escape plan has been devised which is clear, detailed and displayed for parents and visitors to see. However, it has not been practised with children to ensure they can be evacuated safely and quickly from the premises, should the need arise.

The home offers sufficient space to enable children to play freely and comfortably. Suitable furniture is available to allow younger children to sleep and eat in comfort and safety. This includes a travel cot and high chair.

The wide range of play equipment will enable children to progress in all areas of development. The childminder has play resources suitable for children from under one year to eight years of age. The selection includes imaginative play, Lego and art materials. All furniture and play equipment is clean and in good condition to ensure children will not be harmed.

The childminder demonstrated a good awareness of child protection matters to enable her to safeguard children's welfare. For example, she is aware of the indicators of child abuse, and the procedure for reporting concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how to meet the needs of all children in her care, in relation to play, whatever their age. She explained that the range of play equipment is organised to encourage their independence by allowing them to choose what interests them. Older children will be encouraged to develop pre-writing and simple maths skills. Regular visits to Bunny Park and Ruislip Lido will be made to broaden their experiences and provide fun.

The childminder also demonstrates through discussion that she has a good understanding of how younger children learn and develop. She has had training in using the Birth to three matters framework to support learning in their earliest years.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a satisfactory selection of resources reflecting diversity within society to enable children to begin to learn about the world around them. The resources include books and jigsaws. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude towards working with children with learning difficulties or disabilities, and has experience in this field of work.

The childminder recognises the importance of using positive methods to manage behaviour so that children learn right from wrong in ways that they understand. In addition, the "rules of the house", for example, not climbing on the furniture, will be consistently applied so that children feel secure within known behavioural boundaries.

The childminder has systems in place to gather and record information from parents about children's individual needs. She describes how she will share information with them on a daily basis, through written and verbal discussion. The childminder is aware of the need to record any complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The home is clean and welcoming for children. Sufficient space is available to enable them to move around in comfort and safety.

The childminder is committed to increasing her knowledge, for the benefit of children, by attending training courses and workshops on relevant topics, such as Birth to three matters and food hygiene.

Systems are in place to record all required information to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded. This includes permission forms for parents to sign to enable children to go on outings, and to obtain emergency medical treatment. However, the attendance register lacks the necessary detail.

The childminder has produced a document containing detailed information about herself, her family and her practice. It is designed to show to parents to ensure that they are aware of the service that they and their child will receive.

Overall, evidence suggests that the provision would meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was required to ensure that children were not exposed to risk in the kitchen. All hazardous substances are stored in a high cupboard, and a stair gate is available to prevent access by children when cooking on the hob is carried out.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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):

- practise the emergency escape plan with children
- ensure the children's surnames are recorded in the attendance register

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