



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	116046
Inspection date	20 October 2005
Inspector	Hilary Turner
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 has been registered since 1990. She lives with her three children in a maisonette in Chiswick in the London Borough of Hounslow. The premises are situated close to shops, schools, parks and good public transport links.

The childminder is registered to care for 3 children under 8 years. She is currently caring for 2 children under 5 years on a full and part-time basis.

The minded children have access to the lounge, one bedroom, kitchen and toilet facilities.

Children are taken out daily to toddler groups, childminder drop in sessions, and the local one o'clock club.

The family have one cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks and meals most of which are provided by the childminder in agreement with parents. These take into account special dietary requirements to ensure children remain healthy. They have regular access to a variety of snacks and drinks, as the childminder makes sure these are easily available. For example, a child helps himself to an apple which he eats enthusiastically and a short while later sits and eats a banana which he really enjoys.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home. They are well protected from the risk of cross infection as the childminder promotes good hygiene practices, which are shared with the children. For instance, she encourages the child to wash his hands before eating fruit and reminds him to flush the toilet after use. Risk from illness is minimised as children do not attend if they are unwell. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate that ensures children receive appropriate first aid treatment in the event of an accident.

Daily visits to local toddler groups, parks and occasional trips to the swimming pool ensures children experience regular physical activity that promotes their physical development and good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and spacious environment. The childminder has taken all the necessary steps to minimise potential hazards within the home. For example, a stair gate prevents children's access to the stairs and fire equipment is readily available. Because the premises are safe children can explore and move around freely and independently.

The childminder's home is welcoming for children. A suitable selection of good quality toys and resources are stored at low-level. As these are easily accessible children can make choices in their play. For instance, a child independently chooses to play with the train track, which he adeptly fits together.

The childminder has given careful consideration to safety procedures, including fire evacuation, which helps keep children safe. Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's sound understanding of her role and responsibilities in child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's house. They are happy and secure as the childminder knows them and meets their individual needs well. She spends lots of time playing and talking with them.

Children make good progress as they have a stimulating and interesting range of toys and resources that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Their overall learning is further enhanced by the daily outings to toddler groups, music and movement sessions and childminder drop-ins, where children enjoy a greater variety of activities and play resources. The childminder extends children's thinking and learning as she talks to them and is involved in their play. For example, a child shows her some gloves from the dressing up box, they have only three fingers. She asks him how many fingers there are, then says "how many fingers do you have ?" the child starts counting.

Children have a good variety of toys to maintain their interest, as toys and resources are well organised and toy boxes are swapped over regularly.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and content as they receive lots of warm, individual attention from the childminder which they respond to positively. They are generally well behaved as the childminder has effective strategies in place to manage children's behaviour positively, appropriate to their age and level of understanding. The childminder provides clear consistent boundaries so children know what is expected of them. Lots of praise and encouragement is given for wanted behaviour; and children are beginning to learn to share, take turns and be caring and considerate to each other.

Children's self-esteem is fostered positively as they are valued and respected. However, a greater range of resources reflecting positive images of culture, gender, and disability would help children to appreciate and respect other people differences and help them gain a greater understanding about the world they live in.

A daily exchange of verbal information with parents ensures children receive consistent care, in accordance with their parent wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home in the warm and friendly environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own learning. Detailed, up to date and well organised records are in place. Good verbal information is shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. However, children are not fully

safeguarded and protected as the arrangements to ensure all household members are appropriately vetted is not effective in practice.

The childminder is organised and the children benefit from a variety of outings to the park and pre-school groups where they are able to socialise with other children and widen their play experiences. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a number of actions and recommendations were raised in relation to children's safety within the premises; the childminder's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures to follow; record keeping and parental consent for outings and seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has successfully addressed all the actions and recommendations which has improved children's safety. Detailed up to date documentation is in place including consent for outings and taking of photo's, all safety issues have been met, and the childminder has increased her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures to follow in the event of an allegation of abuse being made.

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 complaint 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):

- increase the selection of toys and resources which reflect positive images of

diversity to help children gain a greater understanding of the wider world

- implement a complaint log for the recording of any complaints made by parents relating to the National Standards
- make sure there are effective arrangements in place to ensure that all household members 16 years and over have completed a criminal record check.

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