



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	130285
Inspection date	31 July 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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1991. She lives with her husband and three children aged 17 years, nine years and eight years, in Denham Green, Buckinghamshire. The ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time, and is currently minding two children under five years of age. Both attend on a part time basis.

The childminder drives to schools to take and collect children. She attends a parent and toddler group, and is a member of a childminder support group. The family has two guinea pigs as pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted as the childminder sustains a high level of cleanliness throughout her home. Children are developing good personal hygiene skills, as they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times, and are beginning to understand the reason why it is important. In addition, the childminder limits the amount of time that children spend in the garden during very hot weather to ensure they are not over-exposed to the harmful effects of the sun. She also makes sure that sunscreen and hats are worn to protect them, and supplies regular drinks to safeguard their health. Children's health is further promoted as they have good opportunities for outdoor exercise, either in the back garden or local park.

Children's well-being is protected as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. Accidents are recorded in an accident book, but entries lack the necessary detail.

Although the parents supply their child's lunch each day, the childminder provides their snacks. Fruit and raw vegetables are offered routinely. Consequently, children are becoming familiar with healthy options and begin to understand the importance of this to staying well.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move around freely in a spacious environment that has no obvious safety hazards. The home is light, bright, clean and welcoming for children.

Suitable and well-maintained equipment is available to meet the children's individual needs. For example, a travel cot and highchair. Children's independence is being fostered, as they are able to access a wide range of play equipment from boxes housed in the lounge. The toys are also in good condition and clean.

Children's safety in the car is important to the childminder. She has a range of car seats and restraints to ensure all children in her care are transported safely. An emergency escape plan from the premises has not been devised or practised with minded children to ensure fast and safe evacuation in an emergency.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's sound knowledge of child protection matters. 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 good.

Children are relaxed and happy in the care of the childminder. They relate well to her and her family and socialize with other children through regular attendance at pre-school groups. The

childminder gives warmth and kindness to the children. Consequently, they become confident and begin to express their individual needs and wishes.

Younger children are encouraged to recognise colours and to count, although the progress they make is not assessed; consequently, their next developmental step is not planned. The Birth to three matters framework to support children's learning in their earliest years is not used. However, children play enthusiastically with a stimulating range of toys and resources. They play co-operatively together and demonstrate good levels of concentration as they persist at activities for extended periods. Overall, children spend their time purposefully and enjoy their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well settled and comfortable in the home as the childminder has a positive attitude to working in partnership with parents. She works closely with them and provides written and verbal feedback about how their child has spent their day. This ensures children experience consistent care and parents are kept well informed.

As children are engaged in meaningful play, their behaviour is good. Age-appropriate and positive strategies are used to manage any difficulties that may arise.

Children have access to a good range of resources that enable them to develop a positive view of diversity within society and an understanding of others. For example, books and play figures. In addition, festivals from a range of world faiths are acknowledged.

Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are welcome in the childminder's home as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare. However, she needs to gain knowledge of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to ensure that she is aware of her responsibilities as a service provider.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel comfortable and at ease within a family home environment. The house is clean and well maintained; it offers sufficient space for children to play freely and safely. The day is organised to include quiet times indoors and physical exercise outdoors. This helps to ensure the children's overall developmental progress.

The health, safety and well-being of the children is promoted by the childminder as she maintains all the required records. However, some lack the necessary detail.

Children benefit from the good working relationship the childminder enjoys with the parents. She shares all relevant information with them, and respects their wishes. This effective partnership contributes towards children's sense of well-being and contentment.

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 was required to ensure that consent from parents was obtained to take children out, and for emergency medical treatment to be given. Written permission has now been obtained to safeguard the welfare of the children.

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 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):

- ensure the children's surnames are entered in the accident book, and details of first aid administered are recorded
- devise and practise an emergency escape plan from the premises
- increase understanding of the needs of children under three through use of the Birth to three matters framework
- increase understanding of the Disability Discrimination Act and its impact on service providers by obtaining a copy of Early years and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, What service providers need to know.
- ensure children's surnames and hours of attendance 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