

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	141646
Inspection date	02 August 2007
Inspector	Dorcas Forgan
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?

This childminder was registered in 1987. She lives with her husband and one adult child in Springfield, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Childminding takes place on the ground floor of the home and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children she is currently minding four children. Two are aged two years, one is four and one child is over eight years. One is cared for on a part time basis. The childminder collects children from local schools. The family have two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. The childminder follows good procedures to reduce the risk of infection. She has a policy to exclude children when they are ill, although if they have already been exposed, and parents are in agreement she will carry on caring for them. The childminder

ensures wet wipes are within easy reach so that children can wipe their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Children are becoming independent in their own personal care. The childminder records all medication given and accidents. Her first aid training is out of date; this is a breach of regulation.

Children learn about the importance of eating healthy meals. The childminder discusses with the children what is good for them and encourages them to eat healthy options. She offers them fresh fruit and is very aware of their likes and dislikes. Children have access to drinks through out the day.

Children play and walk in the fresh air daily. They develop their physical skills as they play on the equipment in the garden and at the local park; they enjoy walks to feed the ducks. The childminder has a regular daily routine so that children can rest and sleep as they need.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and secure in the childminders home. The home is organised well so that children can move around freely between all areas and access toys and activities as they wish. It is a welcoming environment for children bright and colourful. The children use the conservatory and dining area of the kitchen for the majority of their activities. The childminder ensures that she supervises the children at all times. Toys and activities are suitable for the children and well maintained.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe and avoid accidental injury. The childminder reminds them to walk in the house and to sit carefully on chairs in the kitchen. The childminder gives them regular guidance and reassurance. The emergency evacuation has been devised and children are aware where they must go but have not practised it yet. The childminder has good knowledge of safeguarding children following the training she attended. She understands her responsibility towards the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and well settled in the childminders home. They have formed very close relationships and enjoy the one another's company. Their confidence and independence is growing as they make choices, such as, what they would like to play with, in the very positive atmosphere. Children initiate their own games such as dressing up like a cat. The younger children become very involved in their imaginary games as they play with the small figures and the animals. Older children prefer games such as happy families and drawing and colouring. They are interested in learning new skills like how to make rubbing patterns. The childminder understands the individual children's needs and meets them very well. Children enjoy physical interaction with the childminder, sitting on her knee and having cuddles. The childminder provides sensitive support to children and guidance when necessary.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals; they are finding how to express their own needs and learning that other people also have needs. They are encouraged to respect others. Children are becoming aware of the wider community as they go for walks in the local area and take part in the school

and pre-school activities. They socialise with other children in private homes. Children have access to several resources that promote a view of the wider world including games and dolls. The childminder has a clear understanding of how to care for children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

Children are learning to behave well; the childminder gives clear guidance that is consistent. She makes clear explanations to the children and tries to divert their attention before they act inappropriately; such as fighting over a toy. She is a good role model and uses positive reinforcements to enhance their self-esteem and confidence.

Children are cared for by the childminder who works with the parents very well to meet individual children's needs and to ensure they are fully involved in the life of the setting. The childminder and parents rely mainly on informal exchanges of information daily, discussions at the end of the day.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from their care being well organised. The daily routine is organised so that children can sleep as necessary and have regular meals. Effective use is made of the space available in the home so that children can play safely, their welfare is paramount. Most documentation is in place, though not very well organised and not always completed. The certificate of registration is not displayed. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she cares.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection recommendations were made that the childminder developed her knowledge of child protection and keep written records of medication given to the children. The childminder has attended a child protection course to gain further knowledge to ensure the safety of children in her care. The documentation has been developed to include medication records that parents are shown and sign so that they are well informed.

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 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):

- attend a suitable first aid course
- Display the registration certificate during times when working

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