

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	320307
Inspection date	23 August 2007
Inspector	Liz Whitehead
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 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 1999 and may work with an assistant. She lives with her husband and two sons aged 20 and 15 years in Tingley. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding purposes and there is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for nine children on a part-time basis. They are taken and collected from school and access local groups. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She holds the Extending Childminding Practice certificate, is a member of the National Childminding Association and also the local childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The children have very good opportunities to learn about healthy eating. For example, they grow fruit and vegetables and bake bread which they eat at meal times. They are fully aware of foods that are good for them and the children spontaneously ask for fruit for their snack.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of the nutritional needs of children. Her practice is significantly enhanced through the completion of an in-depth course regarding nutrition to ensure that she provides well balanced and wholesome food. Meals are provided in conjunction with children's special dietary requirements and parents' wishes.

Children know about the needs of their own bodies and are able to recognise when they are thirsty. They independently access juice, water and milk from their individual cups. The childminder regularly checks to make sure that they are kept full and that children are drinking plenty, especially in warm weather and during physical play.

The childminder skilfully uses everyday opportunities to help children develop a positive attitude towards their own health and well-being. When playing outdoors the children know that they need to wear sun cream and a sun hat to protect them from the effects of the sun. Opportunities for the children to have fresh air and exercise are given a high priority through walking to school and playing in the park and the garden where they can swing, slide, run and hunt for bugs. Indoors children spontaneously dance to the music which keeps them fit and healthy.

Meticulous hand washing routines ensure that all children develop a very good understanding of the importance of maintaining good hygiene practice. The children know that they need to wash their hands to remove the germs as they can make them poorly. They proudly state that they use the soap to make sure that their hands are 'properly clean'.

All parents are made fully aware of the written sickness policy which the childminder rigorously implements to prevent the risk of cross-infection. Children with an infectious illness are expected to remain at home. The childminder gently reminds the children to cover their mouth when coughing and explains that this is to stop germs from spreading. The childminder encourages children to recognise when they are tired and they are able to rest and sleep in accordance with their parents' wishes and their individual routines. This is in a quiet area to create an environment which is fully conducive to rest and relaxation.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe both inside and outside the home as the childminder is fully aware of potential hazards and has appropriate safety equipment in place. For example, a safety gate and socket covers. The furniture is arranged well and provides plenty of floor space for children to play and move around the home safely, independently and confidently. Effective systems are consistently implemented to keep the premises secure and to ensure that children cannot leave unaccompanied. These include the exterior doors remaining locked, with the keys to hand, when children are present.

The childminder has a comprehensive knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child protection issues. To enable her to fully protect children in her care she regularly accesses additional training. This ensures that she has as much information as possible and feels fully confident to deal with any situations that may arise. However, the childminder does not have a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Effective systems are in place to record existing injuries to children.

Children are very familiar with fire safety routines as the emergency evacuation procedure is effectively implemented. They know that if they hear the smoke alarm they must immediately stop playing and go outside. The childminder ensures that all children regularly practise this

and that emergency contact numbers are accurate and readily accessible at all times. The childminder discusses with children about not blocking the doorways with their toys as they will not be able to get out quickly in an emergency.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are developing their confidence and self-esteem exceptionally well through excellent interaction with the childminder. She is highly motivated and in consultation with the children plans a rich and extensive range of challenging and stimulating activities that are relevant and interesting. These plans remain fully flexible to allow for spontaneity and children's choice on the day. An outstanding range of activities are available that give children a wealth of new and exciting experiences which they are able to revisit many times to consolidate and extend their learning. These include children being very involved in a complex role play situation caring for their dolls and shopping where they pay for their groceries using a credit card and chip and pin.

The children are given many opportunities to investigate, explore and take risks in a safe environment. They have wonderful opportunities to develop a keen interest in the natural world and living things through regularly visiting the childminder's allotments. They excitedly talk about growing a wide range of vegetables, including beetroot, potatoes, parsnips, sprouts and courgettes. The children describe planting the seeds and know that they need lots of sunshine and water to grow. They confidently name the tools that they use, for example, spades to dig.

The childminder very competently and routinely uses everyday activities to fully enhance all aspects of the children's learning according to their age and individual abilities. When looking at books they talk about the pictures and words and think of things that begin with the same letter, such as 'a for apple'. The children thoroughly enjoy this game and excitedly think of words before the childminder does. Children clearly look forward to spending time with the childminder. They are fully confident in offering suggestions and ideas for activities, such as making pictures using paper plates.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of how children learn and develop. Her commitment to children's care and learning ensures that their overall development is significantly enhanced. A very good range of fictional and factual books and the childminder asking lots of open ended questions fully extends the children's vocabulary and language skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children develop a positive self-image through spending quality time with the childminder. She knows the children well which ensures that she meets their individual needs very effectively. For example, through providing equipment suitable for all children, such as both left and right handed scissors. All the children are fully included and involved in the activities and the childminder works very closely with the parents and related professionals, such as physiotherapists, to fully meet children's needs. The children have a real sense of belonging and proudly show their books of creative work, pointing out things that they have made and written, and which are important to them. They are really excited as they can take these home to share with their parents.

Exceptionally good relationships with parents enables the childminder to provide the best possible care for their children. A number of systems are well established to develop and maintain effective communication. This ensures that parents are kept fully informed of their children's care and development and that a valuable bond is formed linking the children's home life and their time at the childminders. This includes daily discussions, children regularly taking creative work, baking and vegetables they have grown home. The childminder welcomes and encourages parental feedback and regularly sends out surveys asking them to grade aspects of her care. Very positive comments are received and include 'fantastic childminder' and 'have full confidence in childminder'.

Children routinely access a wide range of positive images. They develop a sound awareness of their local community and the wider world through activities and resources. For example, dolls, books and posters positively depicting people with disabilities and those from other cultures. They celebrate a full range of festivals including Chinese New Year, Saint George's day, Christmas around the world and American Thanksgiving. This raises their awareness of a range of cultures and customs from around the world. Children have regular opportunities to learn about those less fortunate than themselves through participating in fundraising activities.

Children behave exceptionally well and know what is expected of them as they have been involved in devising a list of ground rules. They happily help to tidy the toys away when they have finished playing with them. The childminder fully understands that children learn right from wrong through guidance not punishment. She encourages children to understand the consequences of their actions and always offers an explanation in a clear and simple way, without belittling the children. The childminder is a positive role model and is very polite and courteous to the children. She remains very consistent but calm and patient when children become tired and frustrated.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her time very well to ensure that children receive a full range of well planned, prepared and meaningful activities in a safe, secure and caring environment. The resources are organised well and are available at children's level in the living room enabling them to make independent decisions and choices.

Detailed files of information, including policies and procedures that are unique to the setting are readily available to parents. Rigorous systems have been established to ensure that children are fully protected at all times, for example, children are never left alone with persons who have not been vetted. All documentation is easily accessible to the childminder whilst fully maintaining confidentiality is paramount at all times.

The childminder is fully committed to providing a high-quality childcare service and to continuing her personal development. She has completed all the required training and has accessed a number of additional courses to increase her knowledge and skills to enable her to fully meet the needs of the families that she cares for. She is proactive in keeping up to date with changes and has enrolled on a course regarding the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The home is very warm and welcoming to children and their families with toys available and pictures and photographs and relevant information attractively displayed. Students on placement are supervised very closely and are given a full induction in order to familiarise them with the

childminder's routines and the emergency evacuation procedure. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has addressed the recommendation raised. She has enhanced children's safety and well-being through improving child protection procedures. She now has an effective system in place which makes the assistant aware of child protection issues. This is through induction, discussion and the policy being readily available at all times.

Complaints 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. Since the last inspection 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 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):

- update child protection literature in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

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