



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY229751
Inspection date	25 January 2007
Inspector	Yvonne Layton

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 2002. She lives with her family. The whole of the single storey house, except for the office, is used for childminding. There are extensive grounds for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. When working with another childminder she is registered for nine children. She is currently minding five children under five, placements are varied. After school care is also provided and includes children over eight years. Children are collected and returned home by the childminder and she drives to local schools. She attends local children's groups and undertakes outings. The family have a variety of animals, including a dog, guinea pigs and chickens.

The childminder works together with another childminder from her home.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows effective procedures and practices which meet children's nutritional, physical and health needs. Their health is protected as all required medication and accident documentation is in place and maintained.

The strong adult support and guidance helps children gain a clear understanding of hygiene and a desire to become increasingly independent. They learn about personal care through the childminder supporting them with hand washing and by discussion, including the importance of good hygiene to prevent illness. The use of paper towels and individual personal care items ensure good hygiene.

Children have their dietary needs met because the childminder works well with parents, individual needs are discussed and a weekly menu ensures parents are kept informed. The children are developing a positive attitude to healthy eating because the childminder offers them a varied diet including, home made meals, fresh fruit, raw vegetables, pasta and rice dishes.

Children are able to undertake physical challenges that encourage them to develop control of their bodies and keep fit as they undertake daily outings and home-based activities. The range of activities include visits to children's groups, local walks, music and dance sessions and access to the childminder's garden and field

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are warm, welcoming and in a good state of repair. Children benefit from the available space being well planned. Space is allocated to meet the Foundation Stage six areas of learning. There is a comfortable book area which includes a settee and rugs. Children's own creative work, themed displays and posters enhance children's visual pleasure and encourage learning. They use quality equipment which is safe and hygienic, and appropriate to their age and stage of development.

The childminder has safety equipment and detailed procedures in place, which are shared with the parents, to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. These include safety procedures regarding the children having contact with animals. The procedure is supported by detailed information about the household animals and written consents from parents. Varied consents are in place to protect children. However, children's welfare is not fully supported and parents are not appropriately informed as the parental consent for children to be transported is restricted to the childminder's own car and they are taken on public transport by the childminder.

Risks of accidental injuries to children are minimised because the childminder is vigilant and has consistent safety arrangements. Safety equipment is in place and she undertakes risk

assessments. Procedures include robust routines to ensure children are kept safe in her outside area and visual reminders to children, for example, a 'no entry sign' on the office door.

Children are protected by the childminder who has a clear understanding of her role and responsibilities for child protection. This is supported by her child protection policy, which is shared with the parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are motivated and interested in a broad range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities which provide good levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. They achieve well because the childminder is skilled and uses her good knowledge of children's development including, reference to early year's guidance, such as the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage and learning through play to provide quality care and education. Children's potential is fully supported and they are given stimulating challenges by the wide range of planned, focussed and free choice activities. Themes are undertaken such as letter recognition; activities include children making letters to put on a display.

Children are encouraged to use their imaginations with the support of the childminder and by playing alone. Their learning is enhanced as topics undertaken at other provisions are followed through by the childminder. At nursery a child was learning about ice. The childminder encouraged him to bring some ice into the home. She then supported the children to monitor what happened to it. They were motivated to explore and investigate by the childminder's positive and challenging questions.

Daily routine includes times to be active and quiet times, including story time, outings and creativity sessions. Children are well informed and their choices are well supported. They become confident and self-assured, working and playing effectively on their own, with others or with the childminder. Close and caring relationships with the childminder increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good awareness of children's individual needs and they are respected as individuals. Their ideas and choices are valued. Equipment and resources meet the needs of children. The childminder uses the toy library to add to her wide variety of resources that reflect diversity. Children's awareness of the wider world is enhanced by the celebration of festivals from other faiths and by the display of positive image posters and resources.

A comprehensive policy is in place regarding children with learning disabilities or difficulties which details how the service will be provided to children. This is supported by the childminder's clear understanding of providing care which includes them in the life of the setting through discussing their needs with parents.

Children benefit from the sensitive manner adopted by the childminder to manage their behaviour. Her use of positive praise and encouragement enhances children's self-esteem. They are beginning to learn about what is acceptable behaviour and respecting each other from clear ground rules established by the childminder. The methods for dealing with behaviour are appropriate and take into account children's age and stage of development. Children's self-confidence is enhanced as they are encouraged to take responsibility by helping to clear the table after meals and tidy away the toys.

A positive partnership between the childminder and parents contributes to children's well-being. Parents receive detailed written and verbal information that ensures they are fully informed of their child's day and progress. Each parent has access to an information file and written comprehensive policies and procedures.

Information regarding activities children have been engaged in is provided daily verbally and by photographs. The daily discussion is supported by a weekly diary about the activities and care of the children. Continuity of care of the children is ensured by the ongoing sharing of information.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides. This is a strong provision and outcomes for them are good. The premises are well organised and space is used to maximise play opportunities. Children's care and welfare is enhanced by the childminder's commitment to further develop the provision by continuing to access training and her continued evaluation about the service she provides.

Children's well-being and continuity of care is promoted as the childminder is clear about her role and responsibilities when working together with another childminder. There is also clear written information to ensure parents are fully aware.

Children's safety and well-being benefit from the professional presentation of detailed policies, procedures and information for parents. All required documentation is in place. Documentation is maintained correctly and the childminder has a clear awareness of confidentiality.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to maintain the garden fencing in a suitable state of repair. However, the childminder has moved premises and therefore the recommendation is no longer relevant.

The childminder also agreed to increase her knowledge and understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. The well-being of children under the age of three years has been enhanced as the childminder has developed her knowledge of 'Birth to three matters'. She has undertaken training and is in the process of implementing the framework into the service she provides.

Complaints since the last inspection

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 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 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):

- expand the written permission for children to be transported to include all vehicles.

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