

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY275115
Inspection date	17 January 2008
Inspector	Sheila Harrison
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 2003. She had previously been registered as a childminder having taken a break to further her career in another field. She lives with her husband, son aged 16 years and three daughters aged 18, four and two years. They live in a two storey house close to Tring. It is within walking distance to the town, the library, parks, and schools.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding which consists of a lounge, kitchen and dining area, study, utility room, hall and cloakroom. The first floor bathroom is also used. The bedrooms are used for rest and sleep purposes only. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play consisting of patio, lawn and a children's paved playing area. There is a secure side access and the family have no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for four children aged under eight years and has two children on roll. The childminder uses her car for childminding purposes and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have a balanced diet as they are offered healthy snacks and freshly cooked nutritious meals. They enjoy favourite foods including fruit and are encouraged to try new tastes. Mealtimes are social occasions and good manners are encouraged. They discuss the benefits of a healthy diet and allergies and food preferences are noted and respected. The childminder records the child's food intake to ensure parents are well informed of their diet.

Children are learning how to keep themselves healthy with simple good health and hygiene practices. They know the importance of washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The childminder is well informed about each child's health with suitable documentation from the parents, including permission for emergency medical treatment and records of accidents. She has a current first aid certificate. The childminder takes positive steps to avoid the spread of infection by obtaining current information on exclusion periods for infectious diseases.

Children enjoy sufficient amounts of challenging and worthwhile physical exercise. They walk to and from the local school and enjoy frequent trips to the nearby park. In the summer children spend much of the time outside, they enjoy learning new skills such as basketball and netball. They have useful opportunities to develop their coordination with an obstacle course devised by the children and childminder. The childminder has suitable facilities for the younger children to rest. Older children can have a restful time if they are tired.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming secure environment. The home is comfortable and inviting where the toys and pictures are displayed at a low level. This ensures children feel valued and respected. Toys are safe, kept in good order and appropriate for the children's developmental needs.

The childminder recognises the hazards in the home and ensures any safety issues are quickly attended to. Children are developing an understanding of how to keep themselves safe as they practise road safety when crossing roads. The childminder has ordered some visibility vests for the walk to and from the school. Children learn the house rules and are reminded of the consequences of their actions.

Children's welfare is safeguarded. The childminder has a secure understanding of child protection issues and is clear about her responsibility to report concerns. The contact details for the local authority and information on child protection are easily accessible.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are eager to attend and they relish their time with the other children and the childminder. They delight in craft activities, making models from play dough and they use a range of interesting materials including feathers and glitter to create a collage. Children are excitedly waiting for the sunflower seeds to germinate.

Older children make decisions about their care as they have chosen to make Friday the evening for watching the television. The childminder helps to extend the children's skills as they learn simple musical phrases on the piano.

Children have a wide range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate activities which provide high levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. Young children have many chances to play imaginatively with dressing up clothes and there is easy access to a wide range of books and games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel settled and secure as there is a strong and positive partnership between the childminder and parents. There are effective communication systems to ensure parents are reassured about their children's welfare. Confidential and detailed discussions take place at the outset of the arrangement and feedback at the end of the day including a daily diary. The childminder knows the family well and this allows the children to talk confidently about their families and life at home. This makes a valuable contribution to the continuity of care for the children.

Children generally manage their behaviour appropriately and they are encouraged to be kind to each other and to share toys. However, some of the strategies to help the young children do not fully help children succeed in managing their feeling towards others.

Children are beginning to learn about the wider world as they visit local attractions. They celebrate traditional festivals, birthdays and discuss festivals important to people they know. The childminder demonstrates a suitable knowledge of supporting children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She has an adequate system in place to gather information from the parents and other professionals.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at ease as they receive consistent care to maintain their comfort and security. The childminder is committed to her role. She reflects on her practice and has recently updated her first aid qualification. Records are clear, up-to-date, easily accessible and stored securely, and complimentary references are available from parents. Children are fully supervised by trusted adults; the childminder ensures all adults living in the house are suitably vetted. Overall the children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to improve the documentation for parents, inform Ofsted of significant building works, review the behaviour management procedures and the resources for older children.

Children's welfare is promoted as the childminder has developed a comprehensive portfolio of information to ensure parents are fully involved in the care of the children whilst with the childminder. The childminder is aware of the regulations that require Ofsted to be informed of significant events. The childminder has improved the management of the children's behaviour by observing whether there are any physical trigger points, for example, whether they are

hungry or tired. She has provided sufficient equipment although some strategies do not fully help children to manage their own behaviour. Older children have a wide range of physical play equipment, art and craft materials and games to ensure they are fully engaged during their time with the childminder.

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 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):

- improve strategies to support children to manage their own feelings and the respect for the feelings of others.

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