



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY318230
Inspection date	23 May 2006
Inspector	Hilary Preece

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and two children aged seven and two years. They live in Bushey close to schools, shops and parks. Childminding mainly takes place on the ground floor of the house and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of two children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five on a part time basis and another who attends after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends a local toddler group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are encouraged to lead healthy life styles. They enjoy playing outside and using the local parks to develop their physical skills. They benefit from walking to and from school in the fresh air. Children are encouraged to make healthy choices from the snacks offered. They choose grapes, cucumber or raisins when they come home from school and are praised when they try new fruit or vegetables. This promotes their awareness of foods that are good for them. Children drink water, milk or sugar-free squash whenever they are thirsty.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene. They wash their hands at appropriate times and confidently explain that this is to prevent germs from getting into their tummies. Children are further protected by sound practices reinforced by the childminder. Children receive appropriate care if they are sick or hurt. The childminder has recently completed training in first aid and shares information with parents regarding children's medical needs and any treatment or medication given to them. A sensible sickness policy is verbally agreed with parents, which ensures children are protected from the spread of infectious illnesses. Most of the required documentation to support children's health is in place.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a secure home where consideration has been given to maximising the space available. They move around safely and can readily access their toys and resources. Children are protected from hazards as they play in the home but there are some risks to their safety when using large play equipment and over grown areas of the garden. Children use a broad range of resources that are appropriate to their development and well maintained.

Children are kept safe on outings. They develop appropriate awareness of road safety as they walk home from school. Children are further kept safe because the childminder has appropriate vehicle documents and ensures children use safety equipment such as car seats, restraints and safety locks when in the car. Children's safety in an emergency has been considered. The childminder intends to establish contingency plans by ensuring a vetted contact person is available to provide cover in such situations.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has sufficient awareness of child protection issues. She understands her role in protecting children and has the necessary information available to support her procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from thoughtful activities and routines that promote their overall development and meet their individual needs. They enjoy regular outings to the local park and library and younger children develop their social skills at the local toddler group. Children develop positive relationships with each other and the childminder. They are confident in their play and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere in the home. They understand what is right and wrong because the childminder reasons with children and explains things in a way that they can grasp.

Children engage in some appealing activities that are fun and promote their learning. They enjoy baking cakes and frying pancakes. They collect natural materials and use these to make pictures. Children have plenty opportunity for self-chosen play and are adept at inventing their own games. They use their imaginations well as they engage in role play, such as reading their library books to each other in a game of teachers and schools. Children show an interest in what they do. They pretend to fix the computer with a toy drill and screwdriver, asking many questions to satisfy their curiosity. Children's learning is extended because the childminder supports children in their chosen play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children and their families are welcomed to the setting. Children enjoy the social occasion of sitting around the table after school to have a snack and talking about their day. They are treated with equal respect and have the same access to resources. Children's understanding of diversity and the wider world is supported by a suitable range of resources, including multicultural dressing up clothes and library books.

Children generally behave responsibly, are polite and show respect for each other. The older children show consideration for younger children by helping them to wash their hands before snack. They respond positively to praise and talk proudly about reward stickers for good behaviour. This shows their growing confidence and self-esteem. Children are learning to adapt any challenging behaviour because the childminder uses appropriate strategies that help children understand their actions. Children with particular needs are supported because the childminder confidently recognises and responds to individual needs. These are openly discussed with parents but the childminder does not keep on-going records relating to behaviour or children's progress that would support their care and development.

Children are cared for according to their parents' wishes as the childminder has developed a positive partnership with parents and carers. Parents enjoy hearing about what their children do each day and they express considerable satisfaction at the service provided. Most records and documents to support the partnership with parents and meet regulations are in place, with the exception of a complaints procedure.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to developing her practice. She has completed the required training in first aid and almost completed the Introduction to Childminding Practice course. She intends to access further training that will contribute to children's overall welfare. She demonstrates enthusiasm for developing new ideas to enhance the care provided, such as producing an information pack for parents and introducing the 'Birth to three matters' framework into her practice. Children's welfare, safety and development is supported by basic policies and procedures. Most of the documentation required for the efficient and safe management of the provision is in place.

Children benefit from the childminder's good use of time, space and resources. She plans her time well to support children's enjoyment and learning. She seeks support from her childminding buddy and the local childminding group, which guides her towards good practice. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children from whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable. This is the childminder's first inspection since registration.

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. There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?
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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):

- assess the risks to children to ensure that children can play safely outside
- keep a record of complaints relating to the national standards that complies

with regulations, and ensure incidents of behaviour are recorded and shared with parents

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk