



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY319964
Inspection date	04 May 2006
Inspector	Samantha Hunt

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 lodgers in Maidenhead, Berkshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding, sleep takes place upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 2 children under 5-years all day, on a full and part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/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 learn about good health and hygiene through good discussions and practice with the childminder. She wipes children's noses when needed and gives explanations about washing germs away when wiping children's hands. An individual towel for each child contributes to promoting good health. All children sleep according to their need and routine. Sleep takes place in a travel cot in an upstairs bedroom. Bedding is clean and maintained. The childminder obtains written permission to administer medication to children. However, she does not keep a written record of times and dates when medication is administered to the children.

Children become aware of their own needs. They freely access drinks when thirsty. Parents currently provide all snacks and meals. The childminder stores these effectively in the kitchen. The childminder collates information regularly with parents about children's dietary needs such as feeding routines. This promotes their well being.

Children have regular opportunities to access fresh air and exercise. They are beginning to make use of the garden and go on regular walks to see the horses and visit the park. Equipment such as ride on cars, push along toys and balls helps them to begin to develop physical skills. Children have opportunities to mix with other children both at the setting and through visits to friends and other childminders.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play and learn in a secure environment where they can move round safely. The childminder has high regard for children's safety and supervises them well. She carries out daily informal checks of all areas accessed by children to help minimise risks to their safety. Stair gates ensure that children do not access the stairs or the front door without the childminder. Security is good and ensures children can not leave the premises without an adult.

Children have easy access to a good range of toys to stimulate their development. The childminder ensures toys and resources are safe for children to use at all times, through regular checking and maintenance. She supervises children's choice of toys to ensure that toys are age and developmentally appropriate for example, smaller items with the baby.

The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection, including the signs and symptoms to look out for. She protects children's welfare as she keeps a written record of existing injuries to children and is clear about whom to contact if she has a concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled. They relate well towards one another and other household members and visitors. Older children show care towards younger children, they pass the baby new toys. The childminder has good regard for children's individual needs. She plans a daily routine around children's sleep and mealtimes.

Children show interest in the toys and activities available. They enjoy sharing stories and simple action rhymes with the childminder. They build confidence as they begin to copy the actions and point to familiar pictures in books. The childminder extends learning and enjoyment through simple questions; she encourages children to point to objects in the story and put pieces in the puzzle together.

Children build good self-esteem through positive praise and encouragement from the childminder. She interacts positively at their level, gives many hugs and cuddles. The children are happy to play with and without support from the childminder. They begin to make their needs known well and self-select many toys and resources arranged around the room.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children begin to gain a sense of belonging through the close relationship they are forming with the childminder. She treats all children with equal concern and responds well to their needs. Behaviour is good. Children are beginning to learn right from wrong. The childminder encourages them to share through interaction and clear boundaries.

Children have access to a satisfactory range of toys that reflect positive images of race and gender. Visits to local parks, shops and other childminders help children to extend their awareness of the wider world. The childminder has a sound understanding of how to care for children with special needs, although none currently attend.

Children's individual needs are met through regular discussion with parents. This helps to promote children's well-being. The childminder shares basic information about her setting with parents including how to make a complaint. However, details given to parents about how to contact the regulator are not up to date.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed and at ease in the well-organised environment. They move freely around the setting and are beginning to self-select toys and initiate their own play. The childminder gives good support to help children feel settled and secure.

All documentation that contributes to the children's well-being and safety is in place. However, there are areas for improvement. Paperwork needs updating to ensure it is personal to the setting and is giving correct information to parents i.e. the complaints procedure. Information kept about children is stored confidentially, is relevant and helps promote their welfare.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints 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):

- ensure a record is maintained of all medication given including times and dates
- update the complaints procedure and improve documentation to ensure it is personal to the setting
- display certificate of registration during hours childminding takes place.

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