



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY332879
Inspection date	11 October 2006
Inspector	Anne Schurek
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 2006. She lives with her husband and three children aged five, three and sixteen months in the town of Biggleswade in Bedfordshire. The whole of the childminder's house with exception of main bedroom is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group and takes children to the local park.

The childminder is registered to care for two children at any one time and is currently minding one child, who attends on a part-time basis. The childminder supports children with learning needs and disabilities, and children who speak English as an additional language.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean well maintained home. The spread of infection is minimised; as a clear sick child policy and information on communicable infectious diseases is shared with parents. The childminder has good systems in place to ensure children are well cared for in the event of minor accidents or when they require medication. The childminder maintains comprehensive records relating to these issues and shares them with parents promoting continuity in children's care.

The childminder encourages children to have a healthy and balanced diet and ensures that healthy options are readily available to children such as fresh fruit and vegetables. Children enjoy freshly prepared home cooked meals which are nutritious and complies with parental wishes. Children are well nourished because the childminder is aware of children's individual dietary needs as she liaises effectively with the parents through a daily diary.

All children benefit from good opportunities to benefit from fresh air by having access to a safe and secure garden with a wide range of suitable and age-appropriate toys and equipment. The childminder encourages younger children to develop their mobility skills by providing space for them to crawl, roll, sit and walk in a safe and stimulating area. Children enjoy going on outings with the childminder such as visiting the local parks or shops and she has the appropriate parental consent in place to ensure that parents are fully informed. Children can sleep or rest according to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides children with a well organised, child friendly home. She ensures that children have access to a safe and secure environment by carrying out a visual risk assessment on a daily basis to her home. Children have access to a wide range of safe, clean and age-appropriate toys that are easily accessible and stored safely. The childminder is very vigilant and ensures that unsuitable toys are kept away from the children.

Children are kept safe indoors due to the childminder's fire safety equipment such as a fire blanket in the kitchen and interlinked smoke alarms. She has a clear written procedure in place for emergency evacuation, however this is not regularly practiced.

The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues. She is aware of signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect and has some awareness of procedures to follow in case of child protection, however she does not have the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSBC) document. Children are protected from unvetted people due to the childminder's effective procedures such as releasing children to their parents or people nominated by them through written permission, ensuring children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. They benefit from the welcoming friendly atmosphere created by the childminder and her family. Children have opportunities to experience many play opportunities as the childminder provides a wide range of quality toys and resources. For example, they have access to resources for pretend play, rattles, musical toys, books and nursery rhymes. Children can confidently and independently choose their play materials and their choices are respected and valued.

Children participate in activities which the childminder adapts to include children of all ages, for example babies hand prints on the seaside topic introducing them to creative play. The childminder provides activities for younger children in line with 'Birth to three matters' and incorporates this into her day to day plans, for example, providing young children with a collection of everyday things, such as wooden spoons and measuring jugs for children to explore and discover their developing senses.

Children have warm relationships with the childminder. They enjoy cuddling and playing with the childminder who responds enthusiastically to their smiles with words of encouragement helping children feel valued. They all play together, share resources and take turns with the childminder's support. Toys and resources are readily available to them, which fosters their independence. The childminder supports and helps children to develop their confidence and self-esteem through appropriate praise for their choices and efforts.

Children experience a variety of regular outings with the childminder such as visits to the local parent and toddler group, park and shops which helps them develop their social skills and gain an awareness of the wider community.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are equally welcomed and are able to feel at home because the childminder respects their individual differing needs. She has a clear understanding of equal opportunities and incorporates this with in her equal opportunities policy promoting a positive attitude towards diversity, which helps children develop an awareness of the wider community. For example, visits to the local shops and park. Children have access to some resources promoting different cultures and beliefs, however this is an area to be developed to enable children to develop an understanding and appreciate the wider world.

Children's behaviour is good and they receive consistent boundaries and clear explanations by the childminder, enabling them to make informed decisions and begin to develop responsibility for their own actions. She uses age-appropriate and positive reinforcement techniques to manage children's behaviour such as distraction and explanation. The childminder has a behaviour management policy in place which she shares with the parents in order to support her practice.

The childminder has positive working relationship with parents, which contributes to their children's overall well being. She provides parents with policy statements and procedures in order to ensure that parents are fully informed about the setting. Sound verbal communication systems alongside written 'daily diaries' ensure parents are kept well informed of all aspects of their child's time at the childminder. The childminder is aware of the need to record complaints, however, her policy statement does not include timescales to enable any complaint to be dealt with effectively.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall, children's needs are met. Children are happy and settled and benefit from a homely environment which helps them feel secure and confident. Children's emotional and physical development are consistently promoted through the childminder's attention to detail in planning and organising her daily routine. This ensures that children are offered a wide range of stimulating activities and opportunities and that they are all able to participate in inside and outside of the home.

The childminder has provided parents with an extensive range of policies and procedures to ensure that children are cared for appropriately and consistently. Children's welfare is promoted as the childminder presents a professional and enthusiastic attitude to her childminding, ensuring that she has all the relevant paperwork and permissions in place. The childminder's sound procedures and good working relationships with the parents ensure that children's individual needs are continually met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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

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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):

- obtain the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSBC) document to further develop your knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures
- practise emergency evacuation procedures
- improve the complaints procedure to include timescales for informing parents of the outcome
- continue to improve resources to promote positive images of the wider world

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