



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY336925
Inspection date	27 November 2006
Inspector	Penny Wood
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 was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and two children aged seven and three in Larkhill, Wiltshire. The whole of the home is registered for childminding, with the exception of the main bedroom and there is a secure garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and currently has three children on roll. She is able to walk and drive to schools and pre-schools and attends a local toddler group. The family have a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning appropriate hygiene routines during the day, such as washing their hands before eating and after craft activities. The provision of individual towels reduces the spread of germs between children. The childminder ensures the home and resources are clean with regular cleaning taking place.

Children enjoy opportunities to be physically active in the garden and during trips to local play parks, encouraging children to participate in regular exercise. Opportunities to run around, climb, pedal and swing encourage the children to develop their coordination skills and to build muscle strength. Time set aside for children to rest after lunch enable the children to re-charge their batteries before taking part in further activities during the afternoon.

Children receive suitable care when ill, with procedures in place to reduce the spread of contagious illnesses. Appropriate systems ensure children receive medication in-line with their parent's wishes. In the event of accidents, children benefit from the childminder's knowledge of first aid and recent training experience. However, failure to gain parental consent for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment reduces the opportunities for parent's to contribute their wishes with regards to treatment their child may or may not receive. Records in place regarding accidents and the administration of medication inform parents of the care their children receive.

Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks, such as fruit, which are provided by the childminder. Packed lunches are stored in the refrigerator until lunchtime, ensuring they remain fresh. Children have drinks available to them throughout the day and are confident to ask for more when thirsty. Records of children's allergies ensure they only receive foods that are suitable for their individual dietary needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy suitable opportunities to play within the space available. The childminder organises the home to enable the children to take part in messy activities within the kitchen, free play in the living room and in the case of older children, to allow them to play in the children's bedrooms. Suitable levels of supervision ensure children are monitored when playing both within the home and the garden, with appropriate checks in place when children are sleeping.

Children have access to a good range of toys, all of which are age appropriate and in reasonable condition. Throughout the home, the childminder has taken the necessary steps to ensure children's safety. For example, the home is secure, with stair gates and high level locks in place to deny children access to different areas when required.

During outings, the childminder ensures children remain close to her at all times, reducing the risk of harm and danger. For example, when walking to and from pre-school, she uses a buggy, a buggy board and wrist straps to ensure she has control of all the children within her care.

Appropriate procedures in place promote children's welfare and safety, with particular regard to child protection issues. Suitable knowledge of the action to take ensures she is able to act promptly and in the best interest of the child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and at ease in the childminder's care. They respond well to the childminder who offers comfort and reassurance when children are tired, upset or when they would just like a cuddle.

Children are developing the use of their language skills through consistent questioning techniques by the childminder. For example, when painting, the childminder asked children questions regarding the colour of brushes and the paint, and talked about the patterns of circles children were making in paint. The use of praise and encouragement, particularly on completion of their craftwork, boosts children's confidence and self-esteem.

A good range of toys enables children to experience variety within their play. Children enjoy a good range of activities, which are age appropriate and appealing. For example, the childminder provides opportunities for children to paint, to glue and stick and to cook. They enjoy outings to toddler groups and the play park, whereby they are able to develop their social skills and build relationships with other children. At times, the childminder joins together with other registered childminders to provide a variety of activities and to enable children to meet with other minded children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy equal opportunities within the childminder's care. They are able to access toys of their choice independently from the range available within the living room and the children's bedrooms. All children are able to take part in the activities provided, including the arts and crafts. The childminder shares her time between the children, ensuring each child feels valued.

Children are developing an awareness of diversity through the available resources that depict positive images of race, culture and disability. Children's individual needs are valued and the routine provided by the childminder respects the differing needs of the children. For example, children take a nap when required or in-line with their home routine, with opportunities to take part in activities later in the day. Strategies in place ensure children with specific requirements have their individual needs met.

Children generally behave well, with age appropriate strategies in place to encourage children to learn the difference between right and wrong. Ongoing issues are discussed with parents to ensure they work together to overcome inappropriate behaviour. The childminder adopts a

consistent approach in her behaviour management and encourages the children to be polite, requesting they say please and thank you throughout the day.

Children benefit from the relationship between their parents and the childminder. General information available to parents regarding aspects of the care provided and the completion of diaries and scrap books, offer parents an insight into their child's time within the childminder's care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She is suitably qualified having completed the childminding introductory course and training in first aid. She organises her home to allow children room to play within the available space and to have access to age appropriate toys. The childminder has an open approach to extending her resources and ideas for activities, using local facilities and books for research into new craft ideas.

The childminder has a systematic approach to managing her ratios of children. However, this is not always in-line with her conditions of registration. Records maintain confidentiality, with the childminder developing her own system to ensure her records remain up-to-date. However, the registration system does not accurately reflect which children are within her care during minded hours; as a result the attendance record cannot be relied upon in an emergency. All documentation is stored securely and available for inspection.

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

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):

- obtain written parental consent for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure registers are completed upon children's arrival and departure reflecting an accurate record of children's attendance
- ensure ratios are maintained at all times in accordance with the registration certificate

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