



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY337537
Inspection date	12 February 2007
Inspector	Marie Thompson
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 their two children aged seven and 10 years old in Wokingham, Berkshire. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

There are currently two children on roll. The childminder walks to the local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler groups and park.

The family does not have any pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have good opportunities to develop their physical abilities as they play in the garden on wheeled toys or bounce on the trampoline and have great fun on the slide or kicking the football into the goal. Children go to the local park and use the large apparatus which gives them the opportunity to climb, balance and go on the swing or see saw. Children benefit from fresh air everyday as the childminder walks to and from school. Indoors children have opportunities to take part in a variety of physical activities such as gently rolling a ball to each other or dancing and playing with the musical instruments. They are very proficient at playing musical instruments and they really enjoy banging the xylophone. Children develop fine motor skills as they have good opportunities to handle a range of tools and materials such as rolling and squishing play dough, cutting and sticking, painting and drawing. They manipulate jigsaws and construction toys with increasing skill.

Children keep healthy because the childminder takes good steps to prevent the spread of germs through the rigorous daily cleaning routines in place. Children play in a warm clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. The childminder supervises the children washing their hands and using the toilet. She reminds them to wash their hands with the soap and water and use the separate towels provided for them. The childminder encourages the children to wash their hands before and after eating, playing outside and after feeding the fish. The childminder takes appropriate measures when changing nappies to ensure children are kept clean and comfortable and the spread of infection is minimised. For example, she uses the toiletries provided by the parents when she is changing nappies, she wears gloves, uses wet wipes, cleans the mat thoroughly afterwards and puts the nappy in the outside bin.

The childminder has completed a paediatric first aid course and has documentation in place for childhood illness which offers guidelines on the appropriate incubation period for each illness and a sickness policy is in place. If children are ill the childminder will phone the parents to collect the children and make sure the children are reassured and comfortable until the parents arrive.

Parents provide the snacks and meals for the children which the childminder stores in the fridge and warms thoroughly before serving to the children. The childminder respects the parents' wishes to encourage children to eat the fruit and vegetables first which she carefully prepares for them to have with their meals. Children are offered plenty of water to drink throughout the day which prevents them from becoming dehydrated. Suitable information is gathered from the parents regarding allergies, routines and health needs which is displayed on the whiteboard in the kitchen.

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of the Birth to three matters framework which she applies effectively to her practice. The baby's routines are closely followed and the childminder ensures children feel safe by making sure they have comforters and familiar objects around them such as snuggle blankets especially at bedtime. The childminder makes

sure the baby is suitably supported when sitting on the floor and included in the conversations and activities at an appropriate level.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children choose from a wide range of good quality toys to enable them to make good progress in all areas of development. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises their use to make sure that they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. The childminder routinely cleans the house and toys to maintain a clean environment for the children to play in. Children freely explore as they have sufficient space both inside and outside the home, using the living room, the kitchen for baking and messy play activities and the garden.

Children stay safe because the childminder has a good awareness of hazards and takes steps to minimise them. She has very efficiently carried out a thorough written risk assessment of all areas of the house and garden. The childminder has a fire blanket in the kitchen, a safety gate in place at the bottom of the stairs and dangerous substances are stored in a high cupboard out of children's reach. The childminder explains to the children the procedure for evacuation from the house in the event of a fire which is clearly noted in her register so that she can be sure all the children have received the information and a self explanatory floor plan on the whiteboard details the safe exits from the house. Children develop their knowledge and understanding of how to keep safe as they undertake daily activities. For example, as the childminder walks to and from school she encourages them to look and listen out for cars and to hold onto the buggy or hold hands.

Children keep safe as the childminder has a very secure understanding of child protection procedures that are enhanced through the use of the HM Government 'What to do if you're worried about a child being abused' and her own child protection policy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a warm relaxed and caring environment for children's learning and play. Children are happy, content and secure in their relationships as the childminder has very good interactive skills. She is kind and attentive. She encourages children's play, maintaining their interest in activities or allows them to choose freely from the toys available which are around the room in different size baskets at the children's height. She sits with the children watching and talking to them about what they are doing, for example, when the children are putting coloured circles on pegs the childminder asks 'what colour?' 'how many?' and gives lots of praise for the children's achievements. This helps to develop their number and colour recognition and increases their hand, eye co-ordination. The childminder supports the younger children very well and makes sure they have lots of toys to keep them interested such as shape sorters, rattles, activity frame, padded books and cars and a textured activity mat. Children receive lots of cuddles and praise which encourages their sense of belonging and their independent skills.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities that cover all areas of development. The childminder has a very good knowledge of child development. Children enjoy taking part in baking and have great fun blackberry picking to make a crumble. Children enjoy outings to Dinton Pastures to feed the ducks and to the local '4321' toddler group where they can enjoy art and crafts, singing, playing on wheeled toys and story time. At the toddler group they are able to socialise with other children their age and enjoy a different range of toys. Children really like listening to stories with the childminder and sit contentedly whilst she reads the 'Hungry Caterpillar'. The children clearly like being with the childminder and their enjoyment is evident as they sing along to 'Hickory Dickory Dock' and 'This Little Piggy'. Children benefit from the range of toys both indoors and outside which contribute to their development and provide appropriate challenges.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children become aware of diversity and learn about the wider world as the childminder provides some good activities and resources, including books, games, dressing up, dolls and puzzles. The childminder uses her skills to explain issues to children at an appropriate level and provides activities which extend to meet the children's changing developmental needs and understanding. The childminder has a good understanding of equal opportunities and diversity.

Children share and take turns using the resources. They are beginning to understand right from wrong as the childminder uses good age-appropriate strategies for managing their behaviour. The childminder uses positive comments and distraction to promote good behaviour. She uses her house rules, policy and discussions with parents to make sure there is a consistent approach to managing children's behaviour. The childminder freely gives cuddles; encouragement and praise which makes the children feel welcome and valued.

The childminder shows a good awareness of the information she would need to care for a child with special needs or disabilities. She feels communication is paramount between the parents and herself for meeting the children's needs.

The childminder has an open and friendly relationship with the parents. Children's needs are discussed thoroughly before the children start to ensure their individual needs can be met. The childminder gives parents useful information and written policies about her business. Parents receive daily verbal feedback on their children's progress. The childminder uses daily care diaries for the children which provide information about the day's events and children's wellbeing and achievements.

Children feel at home and secure in the well-organised environment. The childminder is an excellent role model; she is calm and well-mannered in her interactions with the children which the children emulate. Children are considerate towards each other by helping each other in their activities and showing kindness.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children play safely as the childminder organises toys and the environment well. Toys are rotated to maintain children's interest and are presented well. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning whilst safely exploring their personal boundaries. The space is used effectively to ensure children have plenty of room to play. The kitchen is used for messy play activities and the children enjoy playing outdoors in the secure garden.

The childminder has excellent policies and procedures in place which are very detailed, beautifully presented and are reflective of all areas of the National Standards. This enhances her practice and promotes the welfare, care and learning of the children. The childminder has all documentation available, which includes a daily record of the children's attendance. Most documentation is in place and well maintained. However, the complaints record is not in place.

Parents are involved and informed of their children's achievements through daily diaries and discussions. The childminder understands the regulations to protect children, to promote their well-being and support their development. The childminder's knowledge and involvement contributes to children's health, safety, enjoyment and ability to take part in activities and outings offered. 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

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 good. 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 of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request is implemented.

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