



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY341985
Inspection date	24 January 2007
Inspector	Glenda Pownall

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 registered in 2006. She lives with her three children, who are all aged 13 years, in Caversham, Berkshire. The childminder uses most of the ground floor of the house for childminding. There is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder may care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding two children under five part-time. The childminder makes use of local facilities such as parks, the library and toddler groups. The family has a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder encourages children to adopt good hygiene procedures by supporting them to wash their hands before eating food and after visiting the toilet. She follows an effective nappy changing procedure which includes wearing disposable gloves and disinfecting the changing mat after each use. The childminder has a clear understanding of the procedures to follow with regard to administering medication and recording accidents. All required written parental consents are in place to promote the health of children.

The childminder has a sound understanding of how to provide children with healthy nutritious food. She discusses with parents and records children's requirements with regard to food to ensure their individual needs are met. Mealtimes are social occasions where children sit together with the childminder. She is flexible with regard to the provision of food and current parents provide all food for meals and snacks to ensure children eat in line with their wishes. Children are offered regular drinks of water or squash on request.

Children regularly experience physical play by walking to local parks, playing in the garden and using appropriate equipment at toddler groups. This develops children's understanding of exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment which is warm and welcoming to parents and children. A notice board displays useful information to parents including the childminder's certificate of registration, insurance and Birth to three matters information. Children and parents are greeted warmly by the childminder at the door and parents are able to enter the home to settle their child in with the childminder.

Children access a good range of resources covering all aspects of development. Most are stored within easy reach of young children to enable them to make decisions and to select resources for themselves. The childminder regularly visually inspects resources to ensure they are safe and clean for children to use.

The childminder has a very good understanding of how to risk assess the premises to minimise hazards to children's safety. For example, children are not left unsupervised with the dog, stair gates prevent children leaving the playroom or accessing upstairs and the front door is locked with the key accessible. The childminder continually reviews her risk assessment to promote the safety of children. However, whilst the childminder encourages children not to climb, the first aid kit is stored on top of a kitchen cupboard and requires the childminder to stand on a chair to reach it. This does not ensure it is easily accessible in the event of an emergency or set a good example to children. Children are kept safe whilst travelling in the car as they are restrained by appropriate car seats for their size, which the childminder has purchased from new.

The childminder has a good understanding of the procedure to follow if concerned a child is at risk of abuse. She shares her written child protection policy with parents to ensure they are fully aware of the childminder's responsibility towards children. However, the childminder does not have a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and is uncertain if her policy complies with this current document to fully safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the childminder's care and leave their parents with ease. The childminder interacts warmly with children and they readily approach her, snuggling into her whilst sitting on her lap looking at books. The childminder responds positively to the sounds and gestures young children make developing a sense of self worth and promoting language development.

Children are interested and occupied in the resources and freely choose what they want to play with from the toys that are within their reach. Young children press buttons on electronic toys and show delight as they hear the voice and sounds the toy makes. They show affection as they hug each other and large soft animals.

Children undertake a wide range of creative activities including role-play, cooking, painting and music and movement. They regularly visit the library where they select books and DVDs, which they look at with the childminder. Children say they particularly like watching television and playing with the other children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are cared for according to their individual needs because the childminder works closely with parents. Children access a good selection of books and small world resources reflecting the diverse society in which they live. They find out about the wider community through outings to local shops, toddler groups and the library.

The childminder acts as a good role model to children. She is calm and patient and uses effective strategies such as distraction and explanation to promote good behaviour. She rewards good behaviour by giving stickers, for example, if children eat all their lunch or help to tidy up. As a result, children behave well.

The childminder fosters a good working relationship with parents. She encourages continuity of care for children by informing parents of their child's daily routine and activities through the use of a daily diary and good verbal exchange of information. She shares her written complaints procedure with parents and displays the contact number of Ofsted should parents wish to comment on the childcare their children receive. This promotes the welfare of children. Parents state they are happy with the care their children receive and particularly like the easy going nature of the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are secure in the childminding environment because the childminder spends most of her time actively involved in the children's play. The childminder is well organised and has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities under the National Standards to promote the wellbeing of children. For example, children are not left alone with people who are not vetted and an accurate record is kept of the times children and visitors attend for future reference.

The childminder has an excellent range of policies covering all aspects of childminding which she shares with parents to ensure they are fully informed about the setting. All required parental consents are in place. However, correction fluid has been used to amend information held on a parental consent form which is not best practice. 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):

- risk assess the location of the first aid kit to ensure it can be reached quickly and safely and review the child protection procedure to ensure it complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- review the use of correction fluid to amend information on parental consent forms.

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