

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY344604
Inspection date	20 July 2007
Inspector	Susan Parker
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 January 2007. She lives with her three children aged 11, 13 and 18 years in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding four children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has one cat.

She is a member of an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they are learning the importance of good hygiene, personal care, and independence. They are encouraged to take responsibility for their own needs according to their age, supported by the childminder who acts as a good role model and offers clear explanations. This is demonstrated as she encourages them to wash their hands, use their own towels, and use their individual toothbrushes after meals. She repeats careful instructions and explains the importance of good hygiene routines. Children's developing awareness follows naturally as they repeat these routines daily.

Children's dietary needs and requirements are recorded and adhered to in meal preparation and planning. Parents supply their children's meals in agreement with the childminder. Children who have their meals provided by the childminder, benefit from nutritionally balanced home cooked meals. These meet any special dietary requirements such as allergies

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Each day there are a varied selection of indoor and outdoor physical activities to help them develop control of their bodies and challenge their skills. For example, children dance to music, use a trampoline, bikes, push along toys and use a variety of suitable equipment which gives them ample opportunities to develop their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe due to clear explanations and safe routines during play and when on outings. For example, children are encouraged to discuss with the childminder the reasons why an action is unsafe such as throwing sand. They benefit from premises that offer access to a good selection of play activities and sufficient space enabling them to explore freely and learn to avoid accidental injury.

Children's safety is well promoted because the childminder takes steps to prevent accidents and to plan for emergencies, for example, through written plans shared with parents and plans prepared for emergency evacuation from the home. Children take part in daily routines that support their safety, promoting their understanding and development of safety awareness.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has a good understanding of her responsibilities and procedures to follow in the event of concern or child protection. This includes ensuring that parents have good information about child protection issues and understand her responsibility towards children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children display high levels of confidence, are well settled and make themselves at home. They know the daily routine well and are at ease in this relaxed and happy environment. Children are gaining independence as they select resources and concentrate well on specific activities. They thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder and have established warm and affectionate relationships with her, which contributes to their sense of belonging.

Children experience a well planned, interesting range of stimulating play opportunities that the childminder adapts to meet their individual needs and interests. They successfully extend their language skills and learn lots of new words, often linked to a learning theme, as they play games together, listen to stories and use puppets. Younger children benefit from the childminder's excellent understanding and implementation of exciting activities linked to the Birth to Three framework. This actively promotes the understanding and development of children under three years of age. The childminder displays her skills and knowledge of child development as she is able to focus the children's attention and increased their concentration by making all activities fun learning experiences.

They enjoy imaginative activities with role play, dressing up and small world play. This enables the children to express themselves, their feelings and emotions in play. Children are encouraged to display and talk about their models, craft activities and art work. They happily share these with each other and adults which demonstrates that they have a sense of pride in their achievements.

Children greatly benefit from the childminders understanding of how children learn and their individual developmental levels. This enhances their future activities to enable all children to reach a high level of competence relevant to their age and abilities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs are well met as they follow their normal daily routines as discussed, confidentially and fully, with their parents. Children learn about each others cultures, and try out basic words from other languages which ensures that all children can communicate with each other even if English is not their first language.

Relationships are positive and children are learning active social skills with other children both in the childminder's home and at social groups. Children thrive because their individual developmental stages are recognised and supported by the childminder. Transition into the care of the childminder is well-planned and completed at the pace dictated by children's needs.

Children are beginning to understand responsible behaviour and recognise the needs of others due to consistent and appropriate boundaries being maintained by the childminder. Children are aware of each other's ages and abilities and individual needs. This broadens their understanding and fosters good social development.

Children benefit from a good range of resources and activities to promote multicultural awareness and diversity. Children are treated as individuals and the childminder ensures there are varied opportunities in which they may participate.

Parents have access to all relevant information on the care of their child. Information is shared confidentially on a regular basis.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and secure within the setting where they are developing a bond with the childminder. They feel at ease in this well organised environment leading them to confidently initiate play, explore their surroundings and lead conversations, both with the childminder and

visitors. Children and parents are welcomed into the setting with clear information offered from the outset of any agreement.

Policies and procedures outlining the childminding agreement are shared with parents, this promotes children's welfare and all-round development through clear information sharing. The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of the Children Act and most associated regulations, ensuring that she addresses her responsibilities. She continues to seek training courses that will enhance and develop her care. However, the register is not always completed promptly so does not reflect the children's days and times of attendance correctly. Therefore in case of an accident, the records would not be up to date.

Organisation within the home allows access to all play activities both indoors and outside, children have independent access to personal care facilities and develop good awareness of a regular daily routine and their personal space. Children are learning about personal hygiene, care for their surroundings, and responsibility for play materials and personal belongings.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

N/A

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:

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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):

- ensure that children's times of attendance are recorded promptly.

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