

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY350710
Inspection date	22 May 2008
Inspector	Susan Esther Harvey

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 2007 and trades as Oak Tree Nursery. She lives with her husband and two year old child on the outskirts of Charfield. The whole of the childminder's house is available to use for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to work with an assistant.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding six children under five and two children over five before and after school. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family have no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean home. They learn effective hand washing routines and drying arrangements, which help them understand the need to prevent the spread of infection. Both the childminder and her assistant are proactive in their encouragement of children's personal hygiene. For example, children wash their hands before and after meals and when using the

bathroom. They use anti-bacterial soap and paper towels and children are able to clean their teeth after meals with their own toothbrush. The childminder is a good role model for young children as she practises meticulous hygiene routines herself when changing nappies. This includes the hygienic disposal of nappies.

Young children develop a good understanding and awareness for healthy eating. The childminder provides a well balanced diet and healthy snacks. The childminder has discussion with parents prior to children commencing in the setting regarding their dietary needs, allergies and preferences. The childminder supports her practice by using her training and experience of providing healthy and nutritious meals.

Young children have daily access to fresh air and physical activity. They walk to collect older children from school and have regular visits to the zoo. As a result, young children are beginning to develop a positive attitude to a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in rooms that are bright, welcoming and child friendly. The play room is decorated with posters to help children identify numbers and letters of the alphabet. There is a wide range of toys and resources stored on shelves and in boxes at a height which children can reach independently. They can select from good quality toys which are stimulating and provoke their interest. This includes various sizes of jigsaw puzzles, and musical instruments. These free choice opportunities enable young children to develop high levels of confidence and independence. As a result, young children learn that they are valued and important to someone.

Children benefit from a good range of safety measures in the childminder's home. These are supported by a comprehensive written risk assessment which covers all areas of the children's time in the care of the childminder. An example of this is the printed routine displayed on the play room notice board for older children to follow in the event of an emergency evacuation. Young children learn to keep themselves safe as they eagerly tidy away toys after use.

Children's welfare is fully protected and actively encouraged by the childminder. She has a clear understanding and knowledge of child protection recording and reporting procedures. The childminder informs parents of her duty to safeguard children. As a result, children are well protected from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely happy and settled in the care of the childminder and her assistants. Children readily and confidently approach them both for help, or to request activities, to which there is an immediate response. As a result, children's self-esteem is developing in a positive manner. The childminder and her assistant support young children well during activities. For example, children cut the shape of their face out of paper and after looking in a mirror at the colour of their eyes and hair they are able to choose the correct colour to add to their picture. As a result, young children are learning to develop a strong sense of self as they identify their uniqueness while having fun. The childminder and her assistant praise young children for their achievements, which adds to their confidence.

The childminder plans a stimulating range of activities for the children in her care. These are closely linked to the Birth to three matters framework, which enables children to progress in many aspects of their learning. Young children are eager to join in with purposeful activities, such as fitting jigsaw pieces together carefully following the picture, or listening to a story and nursery rhymes following the actions. Young children enjoy the childminder's company, being able to snuggle in, and gaining self assurance through the developing relationship.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Young children learn good values from the childminder. They are learning to share and say sorry. The childminder and assistant have realistic boundaries in order for young children to understand the effect their behaviour has on others. Children have access to some resources which enable them to learn about the wider world. They love listening to stories and role play which involves dressing up and acting out domestic scenes, such as preparing play food for the childminder and the assistant to enjoy. Planned activities and resources reflecting diversity are limited. However, story books are provided which help children learn about emotions and feelings.

Children benefit from the strong partnership between the childminder and their parents, as their care, individual needs, and routines are fully respected. The childminder takes time to talk with parents about what children have been involved with during the day. Children share their day with their parents through taking home items which they have made, such as art and craft work. Parents are made fully aware of the childminder's complaint procedure and the process to follow in the event of a complaint. As a result, children receive quality attention and continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are cared for by a childminder and her assistant who work well together as a team. They are committed to improving their professional development by attending courses and training events. This includes an introduction to the Early Years Foundation stage, Introduction Childminding Practice and first aid. This means that children's care and learning opportunities are greatly enhanced. The childminder has implemented many aspects of the Birth to three matters framework into her practice with young children. As a result, children's development is actively supported.

The childminder has produced a high level of quality policies and procedures which are fully linked to the National Standards. This enables parents to be aware of the link between their children's care and legal requirements. All the necessary consents are gained from parents regarding routines and activities. The daily register shows a record of children's and adult presence and who is looking after the children at that time. A written record of visitors to the home is kept. As a result, children's welfare is protected. All documentation is well organised and readily available for inspection. As a result, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted which required the provider and 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):

- plan activities and provide further resources which reflect diversity in order to help children value each other's differences

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