

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY354373
Inspection date	17 June 2008
Inspector	Karen Louise Prager
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 first registered in 2007 and is a member of the National Childminding Association. She lives with her husband and their young child. The home is a two bedroom terrace house in Swindon, Wiltshire. The family have a pet dog. Children have access to all areas of the premises although minding activities are focussed in the playroom on the first floor and the lounge/diner on the ground floor. Bathroom facilities are located on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed back garden for outdoor play. Registration is for a maximum of five children under eight-years. The childminder is also registered to care for one child overnight. The childminder is currently caring for six children, one full time and the others on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of effective procedures to follow to promote children's good health. She ensures that positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection; for example, children are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and the home is regularly cleaned. The childminder is aware of the correct information to record

when administering medication to children and liaises with parents to ensure children's care needs are met.

The childminder ensures that food and drink for children is nutritious and properly prepared, offering fruit snacks to the children in the middle of the morning and afternoon. Children sit together for meals and enjoy cooking activities, for example, decorating pizzas. Children's dietary needs are met as the childminder talks regularly with parents. This means that she complies with children's dietary and religious requirements.

Children are helped to lead a healthy lifestyle as they have regular opportunities to play outside in the small garden. They enjoy further fresh air and vigorous activity when they visit local play areas and walk to and from school.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a home that is generally kept safe, secure and includes the necessary facilities for children. The childminder demonstrates an awareness of how to ensure the environment is made welcoming to children. She has furniture, equipment and toys that are safe and appropriate for the needs of children. Toys are made available in the lounge and upstairs play room where children are able to self select, from toy boxes and low shelving.

The childminder has conducted a risk assessment for her home and seeks to promote children's safety and take precautions to prevent accidents. She supervises children closely both in the home and out and has some suitable equipment such as smoke alarms and fire blankets to protect the children from fire hazards. However, a smoke alarm is not currently provided on every level of the home.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection procedures approved by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and is aware of her responsibility to protect the welfare of the children. Parents are also made aware of this responsibility when their children start attending.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the care of the childminder. They have warm relationship with the childminder, and respond well to each other. The childminder enthusiastically engages with the children and responds to their needs appropriately, for example supporting a child with praise and encouragement during potty training. Children make decisions for themselves regarding the resources they wish to explore, and also spend some more structured time with the childminder focussing on, for example, counting and colours. Children enjoy drawing and reading books together and help to sweep in the garden. Children also enjoy watering the vegetable seeds that they have recently planted.

The childminder listens carefully when they speak, so that they learn that what they say is important and valued. She quickly gains familiarity with children new to her care and is able to promptly respond to their need, for example, when they are tired or require a nappy change. The childminder has a developing knowledge of how individual children develop and learn and is keen to build on this.

She has a warm relationship with them and is aware of their developing needs and interests. She extends opportunities for children to be able to socialise with others through regular attendance at local groups and trips to the park. These visits around the locality provide opportunities for children to make connections with their home life.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder knowing them well and understanding their differing needs. The childminder has an appropriate knowledge and awareness of the importance of treating each child with equal respect and concern. She has a small selection of resources available to children, for example Polish books, that promote different cultures. The childminder is aware that some children may have learning difficulties or disabilities, and understands the importance of working in partnership with parents and with other professionals to promote the welfare and development of the child.

The childminder has a good understanding of the need to develop a strong partnership with parents, taking into account their differing needs. Children benefit from the positive rapport that exists between the parents and childminder. The childminder shows a willingness and commitment to working with parents to manage children's behaviour in a consistent way which promotes the child's welfare and development. Children are helped to develop caring and co-operative relationships as they play together after school.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is aware of the duty to ensure that other people living or working on the premises are suitable to be in contact with children. The childminder understands the importance of working within the constraints of the condition of registration relating to number of children; and of organising space and resources to best meet the needs of the children. Children benefit from organised routines which allow for regular meals, rest and play.

The childminder has a generally sound awareness of the records to be kept and the importance of these, for example, children's attendance is maintained and personal details are recorded prior to children attending. However, some of the recording of children's attendance is not clear. All documents relating to childminding are neatly stored and kept available for ready reference and are available for inspection. A good range of personalised policies is in place and shared with parents.

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 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):

- ensure a smoke alarm is provided on each level of the home
- ensure children's hours of attendance are clearly recorded

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