

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY356275
Inspection date	27 May 2008
Inspector	Clare Moore
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. She lives with her husband and two children, one of whom is of school age and the other under five. They live in the village of Goodworth Clatford near Andover. The main areas of the home used for childminding are the kitchen, lounge,

cloakroom and a first floor bedroom for sleep. There is an enclosed rear garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for up to four children under the age of eight and is currently minding two pre-school aged children on a flexible basis. The family has two pet dogs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted very well. They are protected from the spread of infection through effective policies and procedures such as care taken with nappy changing routines, and also further good practice regarding hygiene and chilled food storage. The childminder's home is clean and toys and equipment undergo regular checks and maintenance using baby wipes.

Children are well nourished as the childminder supplies drinks throughout the day. Children are encouraged to drink through the use of chilled water supplied from the fridge, and also milk. Children enjoy healthy mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks, for example fruit or breadsticks and the childminder serves meals that are provided by parents.

Children have regular fresh air and exercise through using the garden to play with balls, the park for the swings and outings to children's groups to use ride-on toys and take part in singing and action rhymes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is promoted very well as the childminder's home is secure, emergency cards and a first aid kit are carried on outings and children are carefully supervised at all times. They do not have any contact with the family dogs. Their safety is further enhanced because the childminder carries out written risk assessments which address most issues including the use of the trampoline if this is used for children. Although the risk assessment is very detailed it does not yet include the glazed cabinet in the lounge. Electrical socket covers are in place, safety straps are used on high chairs, smoke detectors are regularly checked and there is a carbon monoxide detector. In addition sleeping children are monitored and there is a written evacuation procedure which is rehearsed with the children every month. A visitors book is kept to record who is in contact with the children.

Children find out about keeping themselves safe as the childminder talks to them about crossing roads, looking out for traffic, and reminds them that the cooker may be hot and could burn them if they get too close.

The childminder is confident regarding child protection. She is knowledgeable about the sorts of abuse that can occur, ensures parents are informed about her responsibilities and knows what action to take if a concern is identified.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled, snuggling in with the childminder to enjoy sharing a book and to seek comfort as they all sit together on the floor. They relate very well to the childminder's own children enjoying each others company. They develop language skills as the childminder talks to them constantly, reads, sings and also uses rhymes. Children have a variety of percussion instruments to accompany themselves as they sing. They enjoy exploring as they roll the battery operated snail across the floor, operate the push button activity centre and make up beds for the dolls or themselves. Children quickly become mobile as the childminder encourages them to take their first steps and celebrates success with them for their achievements.

Other activities children benefit from are sensory experiences such as water play, construction with wooden bricks, puzzles, lacing cards, small world and imaginative play using home equipment such as a cot, kitchen and picnic set.

They find out about the world around them on outings when they visit the river, feed the ducks and also go to a farm.

Children have weekly opportunities to take part in a larger group where they can build on their social networking, join in group singing and share play dough which the childminder makes with the children at home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met very well as the childminder takes the time to discuss them carefully with parents and makes sure that children settle in happily and have the care they need. Resources such as puzzles, books and dolls are available to promote aspects of diversity and Christian festivals are celebrated.

Children are encouraged to take turns and to play together co-operatively. The childminder reminds them to use the resources with care and that toys could break if they are not handled gently. She skilfully distracts and re-directs their attention when they both show frustration and want the same toy, resulting in smiles and fun. She has a pictorial set of house rules displayed and also a clear behaviour policy which includes all aspects and is shared in detail with parents. This helps to underpin a consistent approach both at home and at the childminder's house.

The childminder has a very comprehensive set of policies which is shared with the parents. She discusses all details of children's needs and their care as part of the settling-in process and has daily discussions with parents about the child's day. She keeps in touch with parents seeking permission by telephone before, for example, buying a small ice lolly treat for a child. She ensures permissions are in place for almost all eventualities including use of the trampoline, dental hygiene routines and outings. However at the present time this does not include transport in a vehicle. This helps to build trusting and open partnerships between the childminder and the parents. A clear complaints procedure is in place and parent confidentiality is respected.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She has completed the Introduction to Childminding Practice course and also a first aid course. She is strongly motivated to continue to develop knowledge, understanding and practice through attending training courses.

She has developed a display area where she hangs her framed certificates, insurance, illustrated child friendly house rules and evacuation procedure. Documentation is professionally managed using the National Childminding Association records and all records are maintained in accordance with the requirements of registration and beyond.

Improvements since the last inspection

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):

- include transport in a vehicle in the permissions signed for by parents
- develop the risk assessment to protect the glass in the lounge.

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