



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	225447
Inspection date	28 March 2006
Inspector	Judith Chinnery

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?

This childminder has been registered with Ofsted since 1998. She lives with her husband and two children aged five and nine years and offers places to four children under eight years. She is currently caring for five children all of different ages.

They live in a house on a residential cul-de-sac on the outskirts of a village. The ground floor lounge and dining room and first floor bedrooms and bathroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and well-being is promoted appropriately in the setting. Suitable management of food preparation and clean surroundings ensure that children stay healthy. Hand washing routines are well-established and children happily follow instructions to clean their hands and faces, which helps to minimise the spread of infection.

Children are well nourished with a variety of foods which include fruit and vegetables. The childminder works closely with the parents to provide children with what they like and need. Children learn a little about healthy eating because the childminder sometimes uses meal times to talk about health.

Outdoor play and physical exercise is a regular feature for children in this setting. The garden is available in suitable weather for children to explore and run about in. Varied opportunities to use the ride on toys and other equipment ensures that children are able to use and develop their large body movements well. Children's enjoyment of dancing also encourages them to move around and expend their energy indoors. Children can rest comfortably and peacefully according to their needs on the settee where they can be easily observed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a setting that is well maintained and safe. Suitable safety precautions such as stairgates, cupboard locks and socket covers help to prevent accidents to children. Documents and records such as car and childminding insurance are kept up to date ensuring that children are safe both inside and out. Outings are appropriately planned with children's safety in mind.

Children have access to a suitable variety of resources which are safe and appropriate for their age and stage. The rooms which the children use to play in are free from hazards such as trailing wires and are appropriately equipped for children to play and move around freely and safely. They can sit safely at the table to eat and play because the childminder supervises them and ensures they sit properly.

Children are protected in the setting because the childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection issues and is fully aware of who to contact to report any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy being in this setting, happily settling to activities with books and other toys. They experience a suitable range of activities which help them play and learn.

They are easily absorbed by activities, becoming involved in complicated role-play scenarios such as setting out the books for a library or playing at schools.

Children know their way around the childminder's home and are confident to ask for what they want or to help themselves to accessible activities. Children's language skills are encouraged well since the childminder shares conversations about daily happenings as well as stories with them.

The childminder has some understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework but is not yet using it to plan stimulating and worthwhile activities for children which enhance their care, learning and play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder is careful to work closely with parents to meet the individual needs of the children in her care. She and the children try to participate in community activities and celebrations so that children gain some understanding of and respect for differences in backgrounds and cultures. Activities are accessible and adapted to suit the children's needs so that all children are included in the life of the setting. The children enjoy a warm and close relationship with the childminder which helps them to settle well and feel safe and secure.

Children behave well in the setting. They respond positively to the childminder's explanations and the implementation of clear and consistent boundaries. She supports them appropriately in enabling them to share and take turns, distracting them and providing alternatives to avoid conflict.

Good relationships exist between the childminder and parents. They are kept well informed about what their child is doing so that their wishes and the needs of their children are met. However, the childminder does not yet keep a record of any complaints made by parents to ensure that everything to do with children's care is transparent to all.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her day around the needs of the children. Her sound understanding of childcare and development ensure that children are appropriately cared for and protected. She takes steps to keep her knowledge of childcare up to date by participating in courses.

The number of children cared for is kept to a minimum to ensure that children's care, learning and play is actively supported. Suitable record keeping supports and promotes children's ability to stay healthy, safe, enjoy and achieve and make a positive contribution. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection in August 2003 the childminder was asked to improve a number of aspects to do with safety and to provide activities and resources which reflect diversity and promote positive images of others.

Since the last inspection the childminder has ensured that a fire blanket is accessible in the kitchen, that rubbish is safely stowed away from the children, that the large gaps in the banisters on the stairs are closed and that she has permission from parents to transport children. This all effectively contributes to keeping children safe and preventing accidents. She also ensures that children join in with various celebrations of different festivals such as Diwali and Easter and encourages discussions about differences so that children are beginning to develop and understanding and respect for other peoples back grounds and cultures as well as their own.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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 that certificate of registration is displayed during the hours of operation
- enhance the care of young children by using an approach in line with 'Birth to three matters' framework
- maintain a record of complaints made by parents.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the

procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk