



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256921
Inspection date	31 August 2005
Inspector	Carly Mooney

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 was registered in 1995. She lives with her husband and two children aged sixteen and two in Peterborough. The play room and kitchen are mainly 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 one child under five during the day and three children over five after school. The childminder walks to local schools to collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family have a budgie and two ducks.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to recognise the importance of following correct health and hygiene procedures, to minimise the spread of infection. They are encouraged to wash their hands before lunch and clean fruit picked from the garden tree to prevent contamination. The childminder has a secure understanding of how to record accidents and medication to protect children's well-being.

Children's meals are provided by parents, which the childminder uses to her advantage to take children on picnics. They are provided with a selection of snacks, some of which promote healthy eating. They occasionally enjoy eating carrots and apples grown in the childminder's garden. Meals are eaten together, therefore providing a suitable time for children of all ages to develop their social skills.

Children are taken to the park everyday to experience and promote physical play. In the childminder's garden, younger children play on slides, a small trampoline and ride on toys. This encourages their co-ordination and confidence to climb and balance.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a home where safety risks have been identified and minimised. They are constantly supervised in the garden as the childminder uses a paddling pool for her pet ducks. This has been risk assessed to identify possible hazards, which have been shared with the children. Older children have not been made aware of fire safety within the childminder's home, as emergency evacuation procedures are not practised or discussed. Therefore children's safety is not always protected.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of toys and resources, which are clean, in a good state of repair and promote development. These are monitored on a regular basis, ensuring they continue to be safe for children to use.

Children are protected and kept safe from harm, as the childminder has a clear understanding of the child protection procedures to follow. She ensures that all necessary documentation, which requires parental permission, is in place to further safeguard the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's home. They have independent access to an extensive range of toys and resources, which provide them with interest and stimulation. Older children particularly enjoy dressing up and engaging in role play, which helps to extend their imaginations. Younger children enjoy being creative

with activities, such as sand and water. Children have been encouraged to broaden their horizons during the summer months and have been on numerous outings. These have included a fun day at Burghley House, a picnic in the woods and raspberry picking. The childminder extends some activities to further enhance children's learning. For example, after raspberry picking the children made apple and raspberry crumble. Younger children attend a variety of local childcare groups to further develop their social skills.

The childminder interacts well with the children in her care. She listens to them speak and encourages their play, therefore helping to increase their self-confidence. Games are organised between children to encourage co-operation and turn taking. Children's development under the age of three is being appropriately fostered, through the range of toys and activities the childminder provides.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are respected and treated as individuals. They are warmly welcomed into the home by the childminder and her family. Relevant information about the child is obtained prior to them starting, in order to be able to cater for children's initial needs and interests. The childminder provides a range of toys and resources, which promote children's understanding of race, culture, disability and gender.

Children are well behaved and feel secure within the childminder's rules and boundaries. They play well as a group, learning to share resources and co-operate with each other. Children's good behaviour is enhanced through praise and encouragement and they are sufficiently occupied with a range of activities.

The childminder has developed long lasting relationships with parent's, which contributes to their child's care and well-being. Information about a child's day is given to parent's through daily discussions, in order to continually meet children's needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel safe and secure in a home where they receive good levels of adult support. This encourages them to be confident to initiate their play and conversations with others. The childminder effectively organises her premises, time and activities to ensure that children are comfortable and well settled.

Children's welfare and safety is generally supported by the required procedures and documentation. However, the daily register is not always consistently maintained, in order to safeguard children. The childminder is interested in attending courses to improve her childcare knowledge, to develop children's learning.

Overall the range of children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to update her first aid certificate, provide toys and resources to promote equal opportunities, keep Ofsted informed of any relevant changes and record exact arrival and departure times of children.

Most have now been addressed with the exception of the first aid certificate, which will be completed in November this year. The daily register now records arrival and departure times, however this is not consistently maintained. A recommendation has been raised to address this issue.

Implementing these recommendations ensures children's welfare is safeguarded and that they have opportunities to view positive images of others.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 older children are clear about fire safety procedures within the home
- ensure the children's register of attendance is consistently maintained.

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