



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY298719
Inspection date	13 June 2006
Inspector	Jean Mary Andrews
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 2005. She lives with her husband, adult family and child of seven years, in the west area of Reading. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding two children who attend on a full and part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local library and to the local park.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised environment where they follow and learn good hygiene practice because of the good role set by the childminder, for example children wash their hands before eating snacks.

Daily physical exercise is encouraged by walking to and from school and daily visits to the local park, this helps children understand the need for regular exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Children benefit from a healthy diet, for example, fruit. They are offered drinks through-out the day, which prevents them from dehydrating. The childminder takes into account the wishes of the parent's to provide nutritious snacks that meet the children's dietary needs.

Children have a warm relationship with the childminder who is responsive to their individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their play in a safe secure environment, where they can move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder identifies risks and hazards for example a stair gate at the bottom of the stairs.

Children have easy and safe access to a good range of quality toys and equipment, which meets safety standards. Space is used very well ensuring that children are freely able to access all activities and resources and have a high level of support and supervision at all times. The childminder consistently applies her comprehensive policies and procedures to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children. An effective procedure is in place which ensures confidentiality and parent's are kept fully informed in the event of an emergency. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a good understanding of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, relaxed and gaining confidence. They relate very well to the childminder, who has clear daily activity and outing plans, which enables children to participate in a variety of community activities, for example, visits to the local toddler group and park where they extend their social skills.

Children enjoy and learn from a broad range of activities for example musical activities and picture word books for younger children, art work and construction activities for older children, however, there are few outdoor toys.

A well organised environment enables children to have easy access to toys and equipment and develop their independence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of equality of opportunity and has a positive attitude to diversity. Children are treated with respect, receive praise and are made to feel good about themselves.

The childminder demonstrates a fair understanding of caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. Children benefit from lots of praise and encouragement and from some basic ground rules which are consistently maintained by the childminder.

Parents are kept fully informed of the childminder's practice ensuring children's continued support and considering the welfare of the children. The childminder discusses the child's day on collection, this is a two way process. It lets parents be aware of their child's day and assists the childminder in her care of their child.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from well-organised space, time and resources and they receive sufficient adult support to help them feel secure and confident.

All relevant and mandatory documentation is in place and well maintained.

Through keeping herself fully informed of current childcare practices, the childminder ensures that children in her care develop to their full potential.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides

Improvements since the last inspection

At the registration the childminder was asked to make safe steps and bricks and remove the ivy from her garden. This has been completed although there is still ivy on a neighbour's side of the fence.

Fire blanket now in place.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints 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:

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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):

- increase range of outdoor resources

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