



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY218296
Inspection date	07 September 2006
Inspector	Elizabeth Juon
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 registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and four children aged 17, 16, seven and five years in Cippenham, near Slough. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is available for childminding with one bedroom for rest. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family has four cats, a hamster and fish.

The childminder's registration is to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and she is currently minding four children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to the local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to the local park.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and has a current first aid certificate.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are happy and developing well in a homely environment. The childminder keeps the areas children use hygienically clean to prevent the spread of infection. She is a good role model, washing her own hands often and using gloves when nappy changing to safeguard children. Children are developing an understanding of personal hygiene routines and cleanliness through example. The childminder has all relevant documentation to record accidents, medication and health details to ensure the children's welfare whilst in her care.

Children engage in a variety of physical activities that help keep them healthy, such as playing on large apparatus in the garden. They develop a good sense of space and move confidently around all areas of the childminder's home. Children are able to use a good range of tools and equipment to develop fine motor skills for example, cutters and rolling pin in a playdough activity. Children's daily routines are followed to include times for active and quiet play and rest.

Children enjoy their food at lunch times and enjoy being involved in selecting the content of their sandwiches. They try new tastes with encouragement for example, fruit tasting at snack time; helping children understand about healthy eating. Meal and snack times are sociable; children sit at the table together and chat.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming home where they feel safe and secure. They move freely and easily around all areas of the home and in particular the playroom. Colourful posters on display are at low level to interest the children. Children independently select toys and resources from the wide range available, suitably sorted and stored in children's reach. Children confidently ask the childminder for other activities or if they can play in the garden. Children receive a high level of interaction and supervision from the childminder ensuring they can play safely in the home and garden.

The outdoor play space design is child friendly and safe. The childminder gently reminds children to be careful when negotiating the small step into the playhouse and not to bring wheeled toys up the step. Children learn about road safety through discussions with the childminder and going on outings within the local community. An emergency evacuation procedure is in place but the childminder does not implement this to practise the evacuation with the children to ensure a speedy exit. The childminder uses appropriate procedures to protect children on outings to keep them safe, such as having the correct restraints in the car.

The childminder has current information on child protection issues to ensure she follows correct procedures to protect children. However, the contact numbers are not readily available should concerns arise. Parents are aware that the childminder's ultimate responsibility is the safety and welfare of the children she cares for.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy, settled and relaxed in the company of the childminder. They talk to the childminder, visitors and each other in a friendly manner. The childminder encourages conversation, enabling children to develop their language skills. They relate well to each other and socialise with other children through regular attendance at local toddler groups, developing physical skills and necessary social skills such as sharing. Children develop confidence and self-esteem through praise, attention and encouragement given by the childminder. She provides stimulating, exciting and enjoyable activities, in which all the children can participate and achieve. Children become independent as they choose between a variety of toys and activities, which appeal to them. Children spend their time purposefully. They enjoy being out in the garden and show excitement in the playhouse, becoming engrossed using their imagination to cook a meal. The childminder allows them space to play without adult intervention. Access to very good resources and interaction from the childminder sustains children's interest enabling them to successfully develop their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder is extremely warm and affectionate towards the children making them feel comfortable and valued. She develops excellent relationships with the children; she enjoys their company and knows them well. Children are confident in instigating their own games and the childminder readily joins in supporting them in their play and providing an environment that allows them to respond with enthusiasm to new challenges.

Children are valued as individuals and treated with respect, helping them to feel secure and good about themselves. The childminder has a sound understanding of equal opportunity issues and has a positive attitude towards diversity. Children become aware of the wider society with support from the childminder. She provides regular opportunities for children to visit the local community and access a wide range of resources, that reflect different ages, race and gender. This fosters children's understanding of the wider world.

The childminder has a clear understanding of how she will meet children's differing needs and adapt activities to suit their individual abilities, ages and stages of development.

Children receive encouraging praise and recognition for their positive behaviour and their efforts, which develops their self-esteem. Children's behaviour is very good; they are polite and respond to childminder's requests with ease.

The childminder works closely with the parents to ensure she follows the children's routines. She exchanges information about their child's day and achievements through verbal discussions. This encourages a good two-way flow of information and promotes continuity of care to the children attending, contributing significantly to the children's wellbeing. The childminder has a comprehensive knowledge of the new complaints regulation and displays the poster to inform parents of the regulators details. Parents have access to well-written policies and procedures that underpin the childminder's working practice.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is enhanced by the childminder's enthusiasm, efficient organisation of time, space and resources and committed approach. Consistent routines and effective support ensure children feel a sense of belonging and are part of a bigger family in a child-friendly environment. This contributes to children's enjoyment, achievement and ability to take an active part in the setting. The childminder has high regard for children's welfare and wellbeing. She maintains ratios, attends to their needs and supervises children at all times.

The childminder continues her professional development and actively seeks and attends regular training opportunities to improve the service to children and their parents. She has recently completed a recognised level 3 childcare qualification.

All required documentation is in place. Extensive written policies and procedures support the childminder in her practical work and safeguard children's welfare effectively. These are shared with parents which means they clearly know about the provision and the care their child receives. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection the childminder was recommended to ensure child protection procedure includes contact numbers, gas appliances are serviced and review resources to promote positive images.

The childminder has made improvements which include an annual gas service contract to ensure children are safe in the setting; a varied selection of resources to promote positive images and raise children's awareness of diversity. However, the contact numbers for the child protection coordinator are still not readily available to fully safeguard children's wellbeing.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- practise the emergency evacuation with children and ensure contact numbers are readily available should child protection issues arise

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