



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	140815
Inspection date	21 August 2006
Inspector	Jane Plested
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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in November 2000. She lives with her husband and their four children aged 14, 15 and grown up twins. They live in a house in the residential area of Fairford Leys, Aylesbury. The childminder uses the whole of the ground floor for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder's home is near to local parks, shops, toddler group, pre-school and combined school.

The childminder attends the local toddler group on a regular basis. There are five children currently on roll. The family have three dogs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are set many challenges to enhance their physical skills and keep fit. They go out daily for walks, picnics or visit local parks providing them with ample fresh air and exercise. Children use a wide range of physical play resources inside the home, having fun crawling through a tunnel, climbing on a cube and squeal with delight as they come down the slide. They are beginning to peddle and manoeuvre wheeled toys confidently as they play at racing drivers. Ensuring they are learning a sense of bodily control and space.

Children are learning to develop good personal hygiene habits. Routines help them learn when to wash their hands, so they stay healthy. The childminder is effective in providing resources, so that children can be independent in these procedures from an early age. She provides a step to the basin, liquid soap, labelled and colour coded individual towels and a small toilet seat to support this. Children stay healthy because she minimises the spread of infection by promptly wiping runny noses. The childminder provides an extremely clean environment and follows excellent practice when changing a nappy. For example, by wearing new gloves for each change, wiping down the changing mat after each use, washing her hands and disposing of nappy promptly. This breadth of good practice is highly effective in preventing germs spreading.

First aid resources are extremely well organised. The childminder's main resources are stored in the kitchen with secondary supplies available in the car and in her bag, so that they are continually available to treat any child that has an accident. She holds a current first aid certificate having updated this last year so that she is confident to manage injuries to children.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of healthy eating; she has colourful displays on healthy foods and has a 'five-a-day' hand puppet to reinforce learning about healthy choices. Therefore, children are beginning to understand the benefits of healthy eating. Snacks offer very good nutritional benefit to children who select from an extensive range of fruits, contributing significantly to helping children develop a healthy diet. Daily diaries comment on the different alternatives on offer and the quantity children eat. Parents provide food for children's main meals this is stored in the fridge, each child has their own area so meals are kept with good food hygiene in mind, to minimise the risk of contamination. Children have access to appropriate furnishing for their meals for instance, different sized tables so that they are comfortable as they eat. Children have continual access to fluids. Young children can freely access drinks in their designated and colour co-ordinated containers and a water dispenser is also available in the kitchen for older ones. Children are aware of when they need to drink, and help themselves ensuring they do not become thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive within the childminder's well-maintained home. They play freely in the designated playroom and lounge and rest in a highly suitable area. Meals take place in the spotless and light kitchen. Children have easy access to an extensive range of high quality toys and equipment.

Therefore, they remain continually engaged. The childminder ensures the play resources remain safe and are developmental stage suitable, through weekly checks and continual observation. There are plentiful displays to support children's learning and of their work so they feel valued.

Children benefit as the premises is a child friendly, safe and well-maintained environment. Minimising risks to children is a high priority. The childminder has a keen awareness of potential hazards both in the home and on outings. She has an extensive range of safety equipment in place for example; cupboard locks, stair gates and keeps matches in a secure container. The childminder teaches children to use the slide safely. She carefully assesses the risks attached to more challenging activities such as, swimming. She considers whether buoyancy aids are necessary, ensures low ratios and the presence of lifeguards at the pool and has rules such as, no running poolside to keep children safe.

Emergency procedures are written up as a policy that is on display for parents. Fire safety equipment is in place and children know the evacuation procedures because 'we practice', so that they are confident of what to do in this eventuality. The childminder ensures children's security through locking doors, having secure grounds, using stair gates and because she supervises them closely. Children are very well protected from harm and abuse through the childminder's professional understanding of her role and her excellent knowledge of child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are confident as they move around the premises. They relate very well to their peers, sharing and playing alongside each other for example, with wooden blocks. They also play well independently with small world resources such as, dolls and play people. Children have free choice to select from an extensive range of play materials, set out accessibly in the designated playroom.

Children thrive as they take part in a wide variety of activities that encourage their learning and development. They enjoy building simple tunnels and towers, which results in them learning to balance objects. The childminder continually comments on the colour of the bricks and counts those set out, to re-enforce their learning of colour and number. In addition, she enthusiastically praises their construction achievements to develop high self-esteem.

Children frequently take part in many opportunities to develop their imaginations and creativity. They are highly interested in their play and dress up as racing drivers before getting into the 'kiddy car'. Children of all ages paint and take part in cutting and sticking activities, there are many examples of their work on display. They enthusiastically participate in singing familiar songs for instance, 'If You Are Happy and You Know It'. Younger children are encouraged to listen to bells on jester hats. They have access to a box of musical instruments and older ones can play the piano. As a result, children explore a wide variety of opportunities to listen to, make and create sounds.

Children benefit from excellent opportunities to develop an understanding of the world around them. They are encouraged to learn a sense of time as the childminder names the day of the

week with them. They observe the weather and the childminder talks about how the rain is watering the garden, so that they learn it helps plants grow. There are additional outings to an open farm and Tring Museum to learn about animals. In the museum children look at the extensive collection of creatures and there are exhibits for them to feel and touch, and to look at through magnifying glasses. Photographic evidence shows they become excited and are having fun during this outing.

Children learn through the range of colourful posters to support their early knowledge of healthy foods and name recognition skills. Children are attentive to books and stories read to them, such as, 'Find Monkey'. The childminder asks questions to involve children in the story and encourages them to count and find the monkey. Their ability to listen successfully receives praise so they know when they have done well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from the relaxed and supportive environment within which they are highly valued as individuals. The childminder goes to a great deal of effort to ensure she meets children's individual needs by talking in detail to parents. She makes sure children feel valued, for example through the provision of their own cups, placemats and towels. Children experience a wide variety of activities that help them learn about the wider world for example, through activities and discussion about different countries. They also have access to a broad range of toys and resources depicting differences and learn about their own community by visiting local parks, farms and a toddler group.

Children behave extremely well during inspection, they have clear boundaries, and receive plenty of praise, as they share and play successfully, help tidy away and listen to stories, thus building their self-esteem. Children know when they achieve; when a child makes a tunnel the childminder says 'well done, you are clever'. All children have a star chart and each day the childminder takes time to recognise the variety of achievements with award stickers, consequently they gain strong feelings of self-worth.

Systems for partnership with parents are very good. As a result, the childminder sustains long-term relationships with her family's which contributes to children's sense of security. The childminder makes strenuous efforts to inform parents about the service she provides. She does this through well presented service information, a personal portfolio and notices in the setting. She keeps helpful daily diaries so parents have a good picture of their child's day. References from current parents are very positive and detailed. They include comments on the childminder's ability to 'create a secure, loving, safe and fun environment', another parent says our child 'really loves the childminder and her family, and enjoys being with them', and a third parent says 'I am amazed at the progress he has made'. Demonstrating high levels of satisfaction with the care and learning on offer.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children thrive because of the childminder's highly professional approach to her childminding. She provides a very well organised, effective and child centred setting. With a full range of both child size and general furnishing, displays of their work, individual resources so that children have a sense of belonging. Children have access to their own playroom which links to the lounge, allowing them to move around with ease and express their ideas during free play.

Children's care benefits from the thought given to the extensive range of written information about the childcare service. This is available within the childminder's detailed prospectus and policy documents, copies of which are given to each parent. There is also a portfolio available to parents further detailing her policies and procedures, examples of forms used, evidence of her training and qualifications and her references. The childminder effectively maintains all the required records accurately so that parents know of any accidents, medication given, incidents or concerns and there are details of children's attendance. An extensive range of parental agreements are in place so everyone is fully aware of how the childminder will look after children.

The childminder has effective strategies for ensuring her childcare follows best practice. She does this by assessing her own professional development, talking to other experienced childminders and keeping up-to-date by reading relevant publications. She has attended training offered by Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership since her last inspection on First Aid. This has resulted in ensuring her skills are up to date and developing a greater awareness of first aid procedures. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to inform Ofsted of any significant changes to the premises. The childminder has developed her understanding of the regulations since her last inspection and there have been no new changes to the premises. The childminder did ensure that on reaching the age 16 years her twins completed a Criminal Records Bureau check, which contributes to ensuring the welfare of children. This also ensures she is meeting regulations set out in the National Standards.

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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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