



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112080
Inspection date	03 August 2006
Inspector	Lynne Elizabeth Lewington
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, who works as her assistant, and their two children in a split level house in Basingstoke. The lower levels of the property are used for childminding, the bedrooms for rest and the secure garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to look after a maximum of four minded children under the age of eight years. There is currently one child on roll. Older children are also cared for. The childminder can take and collect children from the local primary school. She attends local parent and toddler groups. The family have a pet cat.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a satisfactory range of activities which help to promote their health. They undertake regular physical play both indoors and out. They visit the park and take part in activities within the home which enable them to develop their physical skills whilst they play. The childminder recognises the need to provide active and quiet times to meet the individual children's needs. She encourages older children to rest by watching television or looking at books, whilst younger children sleep if it was part of their routine.

Simple sandwich meals are provided at regular times each day. The childminder demonstrates a general understanding of healthy eating and tries to encourage children to have savoury foods in preference to sweet foods. However, young children do not have easy access to drinks to prevent dehydration. Care is taken to ensure information about dietary needs is obtained and followed.

Satisfactory hygiene measures including cleaning surfaces with antibacterial cleaner and washing the floor regularly ensure the environment is clean and hygienic for the children's play. The childminder ensures her first aid box is well equipped and recognises the importance of taking a small first aid kit on outings so that she can attend to any minor injuries.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a welcoming environment where children feel safe and secure. Children confidently play in the environment where the childminder has identified and minimised risks. For example, all children learn simple rules which include not playing on the stairs or opening the front door. Space within the property is well organised providing the children with a quiet area and an area for activities. Children use toys and equipment that are regularly checked for safety and suitable for their age and stage of development.

The childminder ensures that children start to develop an understanding of safety. They learn road safety and the importance of wearing their seat belts in the car. On outings children stay close and don't go out of her sight. Sensible fire prevention measures are in place and an evacuation procedure is clearly displayed in the dining room.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and feels confident that she would recognise these. She understands her role in the protection of children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very confident, settled and at home in the childminders home. They enjoy a variety of activities and make suggestions of what they would like to do. Although they do not access

the toys and activities independently the childminder offers a selection and the children make a choice from these. The children assist the childminder with her daily tasks and learn from these activities as they count pegs, match socks and help to select items at the supermarket and talk about what they see.

The childminder responds warmly to the children and allows them to sit on her lap as they colour pictures or share a story book. She listens and responds verbally and with kind gestures. For example, as she talks with a child she gently moves the child's hair from her face, showing warmth and concern.

Outings are undertaken everyday and include visits to the park and meeting with other childminders and their children. This enables the children to develop their physical and social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of managing behaviour and recognises the importance of praise and encouragement. Children have clear 'golden rules' that set expectations for their behaviour. The childminder regularly talks to the children about these rules to ensure they remember them. The children are encouraged to share and be kind to each other.

The childminder has a sound understanding of equal opportunities issues, recognising the need to adapt to meet individual's needs. Grandparent's visits to the setting increase the children's awareness and understanding of older people and outings in the local community increase their awareness of the diverse community. Regular visits to the library supplement the book supply which depicts positive images of other cultures. A suitable understanding of special needs is verbally demonstrated by the childminder. She shows an awareness of the need to gather appropriate information and ensure that the child's individual needs are fully understood in order that they can be met appropriately.

Information about the child's day is shared with parents verbally or in a daily journal when very young children are cared for. The childminder is aware that parents and children are individuals and takes care to discuss individual need. She is conscious of sharing information with parents sensitively. However, very little written information is available for parents about the service offered.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Space and resources are used effectively to meet the children's needs, providing the children with a homely environment, where the childminder successfully encourages the children to feel at ease. Good care is taken to ensure the children's safety is maintained. A variety of activities both in the home and on outings encourage children's development well.

The childminder is proactive in developing her understanding of children and has attended short courses which increase her awareness of their needs. However, whilst the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of her role and the requirements of her registration she has not maintained an accurate record of children's daily attendance which is a legal requirement of her registration. An attendance record provides a clear record of attendance if accidents or complaints occur. This means the childminder does not meet the needs of all children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was recommended to maintain a clear daily record of attendance, maintain an incident record and obtain written consents from parents for emergency medical advice or treatment. A system for recording incidents has now been planned and written consents for emergency advice or treatment have been provided by parents. These measures safeguard the wellbeing of the children. However, the daily attendance record has not been completed for a significant period of time, therefore there is no clear record of the children cared for.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- maintain a daily record of the names of the children looked after, their hours of attendance and the names of the persons who looked after them.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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