



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256860
Inspection date	10 August 2006
Inspector	Sheena Osborne
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 1992. She lives with her husband and their adult child in South Bretton, Peterborough. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding three children full-time and four children part-time.

The childminder is situated within walking distance of a local primary school, pre-school, Mother & Toddlers Group, and local shops. A car is available for childminding purposes. The childminder regularly takes the children to physical activity centres.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm home. Children are encouraged to develop some good hygiene practices such as washing their hands after toileting. However not all of the procedures that are in place are effective in promoting children's awareness of good hygiene nor are they effective in reducing the risks from cross-infection effectively. For example children do not wash their hands before eating and they share a flannel to clean themselves with after eating.

The childminder has knowledge of first aid and keeps most of the required documentation. However, medication records do not clearly show what has been administered and at what time. This means children's health and well-being is not fully supported.

Children enjoy daily activities both indoors and outdoors. They have many opportunities to play in the fresh air. They learn about the benefits of exercise in relation to healthy living and develop their physical skills, for example walks to the park, playing with balls, push along and ride on toys.

Children enjoy the food which their parents provide for them. They eat their meals and snacks seated at the table or in high chairs. The childminder sits with them so that they can enjoy social conversation and develop good manners. All children benefit from having independent access to drinks which supports them in meeting their bodily needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment where safety procedures are effective in minimising risks from potential danger. They are supervised both indoors and on outings, which means that they can develop their independence in a secure environment. The childminder has the required written parental consent in place which helps to safeguard children during outings and when being transported in a vehicle.

Children are beginning to learn about keeping themselves safe by following simple procedures, such as walking to the inside of the pavement when out and using the Green Cross Code when crossing roads. To promote children's safety and well-being the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection. She knows who to contact and is aware of the local area child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy in the childminder's care, they enjoy the time that they spend with her and have warm and affectionate relationships with each other. Older children willingly support younger children, encouraging them to take part in games and activities. This creates a warm and friendly atmosphere.

The childminder has a good understanding of the children's developmental needs and how children learn. She uses this to provide a variety of stimulating and challenging activities which enables all children to progress. Children take part in interesting activities that they get pleasure from, for example, they go on nature walks to collect flowers to put in the vases that they made earlier.

Children enjoy a good range of activities, which contribute to their creativity and imagination, such as dancing, role play, painting and art and crafts. They are able to pursue their own interests and they spend their time purposefully engaged in their activities. For example children write, direct and act in their own theatrical production.

Consistent support and meaningful praise and encouragement help children to develop good levels of confidence and self-esteem, to learn what they can do and to know when to ask for help. Children's language and thinking is developed and extended well through the childminder's use of open ended questioning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are respected. The childminder uses regular discussion with parents to ensure that she has up-to-date information to help her meet the children's needs. For example, children are able to sleep or rest when they are tired. As a result children are settled, relaxed and happy.

Regular walks and visits ensure all children are familiar with their environment. They begin to develop an understanding about differences and similarities through discussion. However resources and activities which reflect positive images of our diverse society are limited.

Children behave well in response to the consistent, positive methods that the childminder uses to help children of all ages understand the rules and learn to respect the needs of others. They play together harmoniously, sharing and taking turns. They clearly enjoy each other's company.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are secure and confident and have their needs met because the childminder effectively organises space, resources and activities. Consistent routines and kind and caring support enables children to confidently explore their environment, begin to express their needs and develop their ideas and interests. Overall, children's needs are met.

All of the required documentation is in place and regularly reviewed which contributes to the children's health, safety and well-being. The written policies and procedures provide a framework to ensure that children are safe and well cared for. These are shared with parents, which means they know about the provision and the care their child receives.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the 1st April 2004.

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):

- improve standards of hygiene to prevent the risks of cross infection and develop records of medication administered, thus promoting children's good health
- develop the range of resources and activities for children which help them learn about all members of the society

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