



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 123687 |
| Inspection date | 16 August 2006 |
| Inspector | Ann Marie Cozzi |
| 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 2000. She lives with her two grown up children. They live in a three bedroom house in High Wych, Hertfordshire.

The main areas of the home used for childminding are the kitchen, dining room, living room, playroom and ground floor toilet. There is a rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. There are currently eight children on roll two of these children are under three years. The children attend on different days and times of the week.

The family have pet cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children thrive in a clean and welcoming environment. They are protected from infection or harmful bacteria by the good standards of hygiene implemented, at times such as, food preparation.

Children are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through the care routines in place. They are aware that they need to wash their hands at relevant times, for example, after using the toilet and the older children do so independently. The younger children are given gentle reminders, therefore the good health of all children attending is considered and promoted well.

Children's good health is further safeguarded by the childminder's understanding of emergency first aid. Children needing medication are assured of receiving and benefiting from the correct medicine as there are clear systems in place for the recording of medicines administered to children.

There are regular chances for children to receive fresh air and exercise as they have access to a range of outdoor play opportunities. Whilst outside, children are protected in the winter by appropriate clothing and during the summer months, from being exposed to direct sunlight by restricting outdoor play at peak times, wearing hats and protective lotions. Consideration is also given to ensuring activities are also organised indoors. They are also encouraged to drink water through out the day particularly on a hot day. Consequently, children are beginning to understand the importance of safeguarding their own health and wellbeing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well supervised and are always in sight and hearing of the childminder. However, there remains a weakness with regards to some areas of safety within the home and one area of the garden. Therefore the systems to ensure children's safety at all times are not yet robust.

Safe practice is promoted particularly well with young children. Their safety is considered through ensuring they access toys and equipment that are safe and in good condition. Children are becoming increasingly aware of their boundaries and are offered explanations. This in turn helps them learn about what is or is not acceptable in order to keep them and others safe.

The protection of children is recognised by the childminder as being paramount. Children's safety and wellbeing is safeguarded by the childminder's satisfactory knowledge of child protection issues and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content playing either by themselves or with the childminder.

The interaction between the children and the childminder is warm and positive. They are confident to approach her for support and are able to express their needs or concerns without any hesitation. They are able to make choices such as selecting resources for themselves, and on the whole the space and storage of equipment is organised to promote this.

The routines that are in place are familiar to the children. This helps them to feel secure and confident. They benefit from being able to freely access the wide range of toys and play equipment. Activities are planned creatively in order to encourage children's interest. They are able to make decisions about what they would like to do next, because the environment and resources are organised to ensure this.

The immediate and individual needs of older and younger children are met effectively because the childminder has a good understanding of each child. Their interests are planned for and reflect the play and learning opportunities on offer.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children receive good individual care because their needs and circumstances are well known to the childminder. They are encouraged and supported to participate in all activities through encouragement and the positive language used.

Children are developing an awareness of the wider community through regular trips out, discussion and resources that reflect positive images of gender, race, culture and varying needs.

Children are happy and co-operative in the care of the childminder. They are rewarded for their good behaviour by lots of praise and recognition for their achievements. This in turn, reinforces the good behaviour and promotes their self-esteem. Children have a growing awareness of themselves and that childminder values their feelings and contributions. This enables children to relay their fears or express their needs without any hesitation. Children's behaviour is consistently managed by the childminder who uses a calm approach offering explanations in order to help them understand their actions.

Children's sense of security and belonging is fostered well through the working partnership between the childminder and parents. This results in children forming a close and trusting relationship with the childminder. Children benefit from the regular exchange of communication between the childminder and their parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The space is organised effectively to meet the needs of children and the environment is bright and welcoming. Although there are a wide age range of children attending, the management of care is promoting an awareness of how to keep each of them safe, healthy and be able to make choices.

The childminder has a commitment to ongoing training such as the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Most of the necessary documentation policies and procedures are in place and support the provision of children's care welfare and learning. However there is no complaints system in line with recent changes in legislation and the registration certificate is not displayed, The childminder has a current first aid qualification in place. There are appropriate procedures in place for the safe collection of children and the childminder ensures that all persons with access to children are suitably vetted. There is a contingency arrangement in place in case an emergency situation should arise which is known and agreed with parents. This assists in promoting the safe management of the provision.

Overall, the range of children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since her last inspection the childminder has written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. This contributes to the safety and wellbeing of children in her care.

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):

- continue to assess the risks and hazards inside and outside of the premises in order to further improve children's safety in all areas
- make sure that all required documentation is in place.

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