



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	100344
Inspection date	21 June 2006
Inspector	Michelle Tuck
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 2000, she lives with her husband and their two children who are three and seven years of age. They live in a three bedroomed house in Westbury, Wiltshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. This consists of a lounge / dining room, and kitchen. The garage has been converted to a hobby room which accommodates a travel cot to sleep a child. Children access the first floor for bathroom facilities. There is an enclosed garden at the rear of the property to facilitate physical play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years of age; of these not more than two maybe under five years and not more than one under one. There are currently two children on roll. The family have a dog and a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children thrive because the childminder follows highly effective procedures and practices which meet the children's physical, nutritional and health needs. For example, children enjoy regular physical exercise in the garden, where they have plenty of space to move around. Babies are encouraged to roll over and stretch, promoted with the provision of suitable resources such as a baby gym. They are also taken out regularly to get fresh air and enjoy the outside. Children's individual needs are exceptionally well understood with close liaison with parents, to ensure consistency with home. Children's individual rest and feeding patterns are skilfully managed to ensure each child's needs are met alongside others. For example, the childminder provides a quieter area for the baby to sleep when other children are present.

Children learn about good personal hygiene through well established routines. They understand good simple health practices due to the childminder being a positive role model. For example, children observe the childminder wearing gloves to change a nappy and washing her hands afterwards. Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where the childminder is vigilant about hygiene. Children learn to keep themselves healthy through discussions with the childminder about germs.

Children benefit from regular drinks and a well balanced and nutritious diet. Parents provide their child with lunch and the childminder provides additional drinks which are low in sugar.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a safe and highly secure environment, where risks are immediately identified and very effectively minimised as in the use of stair gates, door and gate locks. Children are therefore able to play safely and freely both indoors and outside. Children are safeguarded effectively when on outings, such as visiting local parks. The childminder always ensures good visibility of the children at all times and excellent supervision.

The childminder supervises children extremely closely and they learn how to reduce hazards for themselves, for example, not running indoors and picking up toys and equipment off the floor when they have finished using them, particularly when babies are mobile.

Children have access to a wide range of suitable and safe toys and resources, which are all in excellent condition.

Children are well aware of fire safety procedures, they regularly participate in fire drill practices and the childminder provides a record of these events to enable her to continue to keep children safe. Children are very well protected by the childminder who has updated her knowledge on child protection through training and has an extremely positive understanding of the correct procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely happy and settled with the childminder, including babies who are very new to the setting. The childminder is very knowledgeable about their individual needs and how to meet them. She is very relaxed, calm and confident with the children which makes them feel safe and secure. They benefit from attentive care given by the childminder and an appropriate show of affection. Children respond positively to excellent communication and well supported play. The childminder plays on the floor with the babies with lots of physical contact and enthusiastic communication. She constantly introduces new toys with sounds and visual effects to stimulate the baby yet allows them to explore and investigate using all their senses. Babies are introduced to books at a young age and their learning is developed appropriately to their understanding. Young children benefit from the childminder's positive introduction of the Birth to Three framework. She records observations under the four aspects and uses the components of the framework to monitor children's development and progress. These are explained and shared with parents.

Children develop independence through self selecting toys from a wide variety of stimulating, clean and good quality resources. They learn new skills such as cutting shapes in vegetables and printing with them. Children are extended in their play with exciting activities to enhance their learning. For example, the childminder has made game cards, using them with numbers and letters of the alphabet to promote their learning in a fun way. Children benefit from a range of stimulating, exciting activities they are interested in, for example, a child interested in football made a flag.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from effective partnerships between the childminder and parents. Children's individual needs are understood and well met through daily information sharing with parents who are also kept well informed about the provision through regularly reviewed and updated, written policies.

Children are relaxed and happy due to the childminder's constant praise and encouragement. Babies receive positive facial expressions to reinforce they are safe and secure. For example, the childminder smiles and chats to a baby while changing her nappy. Children behave well, they learn to share and play together. They are aware of the daily routine and know what is expected of them. This is encouraged by the childminder who uses positive and effective strategies to manage behaviour.

Children learn about diversity through a range of toys and resources that reflect positive images of different cultures. There are no resources which reflect disability, however the childminder is confident to discuss any issues that arise. Children benefit from the childminder's good knowledge of equal opportunities. Although the childminder does not currently mind children with learning difficulties she has some experience and knowledge in this area.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children benefit from the childminder's effective organisation of time and space. For example, there is a flexible routine that is led according to the individual needs of the children.

There is regular sharing of information with parents through relevant policies and procedures, communication books and observation sheets. Children feel confident in the well organised setting, for example they are able to access resources independently and make choices.

The childminder intends to complete an NVQ level 3 in early years childcare and education; she has attended various workshops and holds an up-to-date first aid certificate. Her commitment to developing her knowledge and practice is exceptional. Children benefit from the childminder's good knowledge of the National Standards and the Birth to Three framework.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to increase her knowledge of child protection issues and procedures. The childminder has attended a course and is confident of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the correct procedures to follow in the event of a concern. She was also asked to extend children's use of resources which promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. There are now resources which reflect positive images of different cultures. She also supplements these with books from the public library.

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):

- extend resources which reflect disability.

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