



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	222375
Inspection date	25 July 2006
Inspector	Heidi Falconer
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 1990. She lives with her husband and two children aged 17 and 13 in the town of Cambridge. 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 a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five. The childminder walks to local playgroups to take and collect children. The childminder attends local toddler groups with minded children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained home. The childminder has a thorough understanding of how she can promote children's health and reduce the risk of cross infection. For example, towels in her bathroom are changed on a daily basis and before meals she wipes down the table and high chair with anti-bacterial spray, to ensure that they are clean. Well established routines and clear explanations increase children's understanding of why they must wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet, they understand that they do this to prevent germs spreading. Children's well-being is safeguarded by the childminder's use of accident and medication records which she shares with parents appropriately.

The childminder plans and provides activities for the children that promote a healthy lifestyle and supports their physical development. Children frequently play in the childminder's garden and enjoy using her small trampoline, scooters and buggies. To ensure that they are provided with physical challenges the childminder takes the children to local parks to practise skills such as climbing. With support from the childminder, young babies are acquiring control over their bodies. For example, as they learn to sit, the childminder positions cushions around them so that they are gently supported. Good sleep routines are in place for babies which are based on their individual needs and parents' wishes, this ensures that they are well rested.

The childminder pays particular attention to ensuring that the snacks she provides includes healthy options. For example, children enjoy foods such as rice cakes, bread sticks, fruit and pieces of cucumber. The childminder is attentive to children's safety with regard to food. All snacks she provides are planned in accordance to individual dietary requirements and parental wishes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a range of good quality toys and resources which are appropriate to their age and stage of development. The childminder pays good attention to protecting children from possible hazards and risks. To keep children safe the childminder uses stair gates to prevent them accessing the kitchen whilst the oven is on and cleaning products are stored in a secure cupboard. In addition the childminder has an easily accessible fire blanket in her kitchen and she ensures that her smoke detectors are maintained, so that they are in good working order.

Children are learning to keep themselves and others safe because the childminder encourages them to follow safe practices when on outings and in her home. For example, children learn about road safety and why it is important that in busy areas, such as supermarkets, that they must hold on to the trolley or the childminder's hand. In the home, older children understand that they must not give babies toys with small parts because they may choke on them.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder recognises and understands her responsibilities regarding child protection. As a result she is able to put appropriate procedures into practice if she had concerns about a child. Parents are made aware of the childminder's duty to report concerns through a statement on their contract.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident in the childminder's home. The childminder has worked with children for many years and uses this experience to provide them with a wide range of activities both inside and outside the home to promote their development. In the home children enjoy activities such as playdough, magic painting and baking. Children also regularly go on outings with the childminder, attending playgroups or going on trains and buses to visit local zoos and wildlife parks. These outings broaden children's experiences and ensure that they spend their time purposefully.

The childminder actively listens to the sounds and watches the facial expressions that babies make as they attempt to communicate with her. She responds to their babbling and gurgling positively, copying the noises they make and giving them lots of eye contact. As a result babies are developing their impulse to communicate and their communication skills.

The childminder promotes babies sociable skills well. She encourages their playfulness by being physically close to them as they play and during routines. For example, as she changes their nappies she strokes and tickles their feet. Babies respond by smiling at the childminder and moving their feet away from her hands and then moving them back again.

Children's independence is being promoted well. For non-mobile babies the childminder places a selection of toys within their reach whilst older children choose from resources which are stored in the lounge. As a result all children are able to make choices about how they spend their time.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met well. Prior to all children starting the childminder takes time to talk to parents about their child's daily routines. For example, when babies start in her care the childminder asks parents to write down their child's routines for sleeps, meals, and bottle feeds. As a result home routines are followed, providing consistent care for the children, helping them to settle quickly. The childminder has a positive attitude to ensuring that children learn about similarities and differences in the wider community. For example, she talks sensitively to children about why some people need to use wheelchairs answering their questions honestly.

Children have developed a sense of belonging in the childminder's home. They are making firm friends with the childminder and her family members. On the day of inspection a warm and affectionate rapport was observed between the childminder and a young baby. This close relationship has developed because the childminder constantly engages with the children talking to them whilst she prepares their lunch, changes their nappies and as she gets them up from their

sleep. This ensures that children feel valued and emotionally secure whilst they are away from their parents. Children's behaviour is good. The childminder ensures that children know what is expected of them by ensuring that she applies consistent boundaries.

The childminder strives to develop good working relationships with parents. The parents of children currently attending show their high regard for the childminder through positive comments on her self-evaluation form and through thank-you cards they have given her. They praise the childminder, remarking that she creates a home where children are 'made to feel part of her family unit' and that their children 'love coming to her'. However, although the childminder has some awareness of the new regulation regarding recording any written complaints she may receive from parents she has not yet developed a system for recording these.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The organisation of the setting is good in ensuring there the practice of the childminder contributes positively to children's good health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to take an active part in the setting. All children are supported well because the childminder understands how she can meet their individual needs which help them to achieve their potential.

The childminder is aware of the importance of ensuring that her written documentation is accurate and kept up to date. For example, the childminder has ensured that all adults who live on the premises have completed the required checks. These written records keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. However, although all new parents are shown her certificate of registration, it is filed away rather than on display. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to improve health procedures by obtaining written permission from parents to seek emergency medical treatment for their children. This is now in place for all children and as a result they would be able to receive treatment promptly in the event of an emergency. The childminder was also asked to review her written records to ensure that she had written consent from parents to transport children in her vehicle. The childminder has now insured this is in place for all children. As a result of obtaining these written consents the childminder is maintaining effective partnerships with parents and carers.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 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):

- comply with conditions of registration with regard to displaying the certificate for the hours that childminding takes place
- develop a system to record complaints, which can be shared with parents on request.

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