



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111138
Inspection date	18 December 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1989. She lives with her husband and two daughters in a three bedroom house in Lychpit, Basingstoke. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding and there is a secure garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years. She concentrates mainly on after school care which is term time only. There are currently four children under eight years on roll. She also cares for older children. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Effective hygiene routines promote children's good health in the childminder's home. For example; children remove their shoes indoors, this keeps the floor play space clean and hygienic. Children learn when they first attend the childminders simple rule of hand washing after toileting and before snacks. Easy access to downstairs facilities equipped with a clean towel and soap ensure this task is swiftly undertaken before snacks. Older children remind and encourage the younger children if required. The areas used by the children are clean and well maintained providing a pleasant warm environment for their play and activity.

The childminder holds an up to date first aid certificate and a well equipped first aid box ensuring that she is equipped to deal with any minor incident. Whilst consents from parents enable first aid to be administered the childminder does not have consent to seek emergency advice or treatment.

The children have good daily exercise as they walk to and from the school each day. They enjoy outdoor play after school in the garden in the spring and summer time and have use of a climbing frame, roller blades and balls. Indoor activities enable them to develop their fine movements as they participate in games and dressing up activities.

The childminder provides the children with a varied snack after school. She recognises that they are often very hungry at this time and therefore ensures they have a substantial snack which always includes a variety of fruit. Children benefit positively from easy access to drinks throughout their time at the childminders. Discussion with parents ensures that any special dietary requirements are followed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a large comfortable lounge and well equipped playroom. Toys and equipment are safe, well suited to the children's needs and easily accessed due to effective storage in the playroom. Children have access to sufficient space to enable them to play and exercise.

Children's safety is promoted effectively by the childminders ability to risk assess and her awareness of safe practice. The children learn road safety as they go and return from school each day under the close supervision of the childminder. They walk sensibly when near the road and stay close to the childminder. Smoke detectors and a clear evacuation plan promote fire safety however the fire blanket is not currently easily accessible. The childminder safeguards children's welfare as she has a clear awareness of child protection procedures and the action she would take if she was concerned about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the opportunities to socialise and mix with other children at the childminders home. Children are independent and confidently choose activities that interest them. Dressing up provides the children with good opportunities to use their imaginations and act out events. Children enjoy the childminders participation in their games and conversations. For example; the children invite the childminder to play frustration with them, she participates enthusiastically whilst still ensuring that children who are not playing have opportunities to join in if they wish.

Children appear relaxed and at home in the environment as they relate well to the childminder and use the resources independently. They enjoy an excellent variety of activities that encourage their interests and development. The childminders good relationship with parents enables a sound knowledge of each child's personal circumstances to develop.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well as they understand the childminders expectations of them. Simple rules are consistent and ensure the children have consideration for property and people enabling them to develop a good sense of right and wrong. Sensitive handling of potential problems and discussion with parents helps to ensure behaviour is managed appropriately.

Through games and discussion the children develop their abilities to negotiate, learn to take turns and share well. They are encouraged to care for each other and ensure people are not left out. The childminder encourages positive behaviour as she frequently praises the children.

The childminders warm but professional relationship with parents enables her to learn about the children and understand their individual needs. The childminder has sought the parent's opinions of the service she offers. Parents are confident and pleased with the level of care and understanding their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Organisation is good. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children are cared for in an organised, tidy, well maintained, homely environment, where the property is used very effectively to provide all children with space to play and relax. This good organisation enables the children to benefit from the attention and care of the childminder and to develop their social skills as they play with their peers.

Sensible measures ensure children are safe and begin to develop a good awareness of how to keep themselves safe. Children's good health is encouraged through the childminders understanding of their developmental requirements, and good hygiene routines. Therefore, the childminder ensures children's welfare is promoted at all times through her conscientious attention to her role as a childminder.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was recommended to improve her attendance register, obtain permission for children to travel in the car and obtain consent for emergency advice or treatment. The attendance register now contains all the required information and permission has been obtained for children to travel in the car. Whilst parents have given consent for the childminder to administer first aid they have not been requested to provide consent for emergency advice or treatment.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. 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):

- obtain parental permission to seek emergency advice or treatment
- ensure the fire blanket can be easily accessed in an emergency.

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