



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	259799
Inspection date	09 November 2006
Inspector	Diane Mary O'Neill
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 satisfactory. 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 1996. She lives with her husband and two children aged sixteen and nine years. They live in a property in Houghton Regis, near Luton and Dunstable. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding and there is a first floor bedroom available for children to have undisturbed rest. There is a toilet on the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five and one over five. She is in walking distance of local schools to take and collect children. The family has no pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children understand simple hygiene practices and are aware of the need to wash their hands after using the toilet and before meals. Clear exclusions times for certain illnesses ensure children are prevented from cross-infection by other children. Although the childminder has a suitable awareness of dealing with emergency first aid, her current first aid certificate has lapsed, therefore there is a potential risk to children's health and safety.

Children benefit from a healthy diet of nutritious meals and snacks. For example, children have carrots, ham and bananas. They also talk about different foods they see when out shopping or when playing with pretend fruit and vegetables. The childminder shares information with the parents to ensure the children's dietary requirements are maintained. Children have access to drinks of water and squash on request.

Children have access to fresh air and exercise whenever possible to maintain a healthy life style. They enjoy playing in the childminder's garden, where there is suitable equipment to extend their physical development. For example, they use a large trampoline with supervision and use sit and ride toys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and reasonably safe environment. The childminder has identified and minimised the risk to children by regularly checking the equipment, toys and premises. There are suitable opportunities for children to take part in indoor and outdoor activities and use the equipment to develop their skills and physical abilities which are appropriate for the ages of the children attending. Children's safety is extended by understanding the house rules, such as not running indoors, in case of hurting themselves and following the Green Cross Code when on outings. However, the childminder does not have written parental permission for taking children on outings as stated in the National Standards therefore not meeting all requirements of her registration.

Children's care is suitably safeguarded as the childminder promotes their welfare and safety in an acceptable manner. The childminder is aware of her responsibility to protect children in her care and has the local authority guidance and the Department of Health booklet 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused' - summary, so is up-to-date with practices and procedures for protecting children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's home. The childminder is attentive to the children in her care providing a range of practical age appropriate activities that inspire interest and give them chance to play with a selection of equipment. These play opportunities enable

them to develop in most areas of their learning. Children are able to extend their play through activities out in the garden and by using equipment which further enhances their physical skills. For example, they use the trampoline and toy car.

Children confidently talk to the childminder about their game. For example, they pretend to feed their baby and take it for a walk. The childminder asks questions such 'as what is this', 'where is the other baby'. This joining in helps build children's communication skills. The children enjoy pretending to cook dinner in the toy kitchen and talk about the food they are cooking such as, pizza and food they like to eat. The childminder has no knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework, so therefore opportunities for younger children may be limited.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident within their environment and move confidently and freely around the home accessing toys and equipment with which to play. Children receive appropriate care as the childminder works closely with the parents. She has an induction period for when children start. There is daily verbal communication to keep the parents informed about their child's day. Children are valued and respected as individuals because the childminder makes sure that she is aware of their individual needs and is able to meet these. For example, there is a daily routine which allows time for them to play, rest and interact. However, the childminder does not have a suitable system in place for the recording and sharing of any complaints or concerns raised by a parent. Therefore children's care may be compromised.

The children's behaviour is acceptable as they are learning to play together, sharing and taking turns. Children have consistent boundaries so they know what is expected of them. The childminder has a suitable understanding of behaviour management and uses age-appropriate strategies to reinforce the children's learning.

Children are beginning to have an awareness of society and the world around them, through access to a sufficient range of toys to help further their understanding of the diverse society in which we live. For example, they look at books, play with different play food. Children are all treated equally and individual needs are catered for.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's care. They initiate their own play and explore readily accessible toys and resources, developing their confidence and self esteem as they become more independent. The childminder organises a majority of her work effectively, this contributes positively in helping children to feel comfortable and relaxed in the provision.

There is general information that is openly shared with parents, which fully informs them about the care of their children. However some documentation requires attention, to ensure the childminder is meeting the registration requirements.

The childminder is fairly organised with her documentation in relation to her childminding practice. However, furthering her knowledge and understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework may enhance the learning and play opportunities for very young children. Overall, the needs of all children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that confidentiality is observed when parents sign the accident and medication records. The childminder has obtained a new accident and medication book which ensures confidentiality as there are flaps to cover all written entries. The childminder was also asked to, ensure that there is written parental permission for the childminding assistant to be left in sole charge of the children. The childminder has written permission in place, to ensure children's safety and well-being.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- ensure current first aid certificate is in place
- ensure written permission for taking children on outings
- ensure system in place for the sharing of complaints and concerns with parents
- ensure documentation is checked regularly to ensure up-to-date (link permission for outings, first aid certificate)
- have an awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' frame work.

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