



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY312787
Inspection date	15 December 2006
Inspector	Clare Elizabeth Pook
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 was registered in 2005. She lives with husband and four children. Two children aged 10 years, a nine-year-old and a four-year-old on the outskirts of Peterborough. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She takes children to the local park.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding six children all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder has a two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy environment where they are beginning to learn the importance of following good hygiene routines. For example, children know to wash their hands after using the toilet. The childminder is aware of the necessity of recording all accidents and maintaining accurate records of any medications administered. The childminder knows how to respond to accidents appropriately through training she received on her first aid course. She keeps suitable records of any accidents and is aware of any consents and records that need to be kept regarding the administration of medication. These help safeguard children's well-being.

Children's health is promoted through the childminder providing regular drinks, meals and snacks that are balanced and nutritious for the children such spaghetti bolognaise, fruit and the occasional biscuit. Children are able to explain that they need five pieces of fruit and vegetables a day. This helps them learn about healthy eating. Children's dietary needs are recorded on their information sheets.

Children take part in a suitable range of activities that contribute to their good health and physical development. Each day the childminder walks children home from school. She arranges games like twister and encourages them to use the dance mat to keep active inside when the weather is not suitable to play outside. This ensures they get plenty of exercise and fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe environment. They have access to a suitable range of toys and equipment that meet safety standards and are appropriate for the ages and stages of development. The childminder is aware of possible hazards and reduces the risks to children for example blocking in the banisters to prevent children climbing them. Fire alarms are checked regularly and an emergency evacuation plan is in place and practised with children. The childminder may on occasions use the car for childminding. At present consent from parents is verbal and the car insurance does not include business use and so does not fully safeguard children if she was to have an accident.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe when out walking. Younger children know to hold hands with the childminder when crossing the road and to stay in sight of the childminder if they walk ahead. During a quiz children were able to explain what to do if approached by a stranger. This enables children to keep themselves safe and look out for possible dangers.

Children are appropriately protected because the childminder recognises her responsibility to the children in her care and clearly understands the procedures she must follow if she was concerned about the welfare of a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and settled in the childminder's care. They enjoy a satisfactory range of activities and experiences. They enjoy taking part in quiz covering a range of topics from healthy eating, films, mathematics and general knowledge. The children work well together allowing younger children to answer more age appropriate questions. The childminder rewards the children for their efforts and achievements with small gifts. She sensitively supports those children who find it difficult not to have won. Some children organise a game of twister, whilst others engage themselves in play station games. Resources are mainly stored upstairs which the children can access themselves or ask for, which encourages children to be independent in making their own decisions about how they spend their time.

Children's self-esteem is developed through the support they receive during their play from the childminder. Children have developed warm relationships with her because she shows a genuine interest in the children, talking to them about what they are doing, their day at school and joining in with their play.

Children are encouraged to be independent in getting themselves drinks when they are thirsty and putting on their own shoes. The childminder supports children where necessary, but stands back to allow them to learn for themselves. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of how children develop under the age of three. She is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework, but has not got a copy or read about it yet.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy and benefit from warm relationships with the childminder. Children behave well are polite and well-mannered. Positive strategies are in place to deal with challenging behaviour. The childminder's good use of praise and encouragement promotes children's confidence and self-esteem. Children are developing an understanding of the needs of others because the childminder encourages them to take turns when playing games and allowing younger children to contribute to the quiz. Children's own cultural backgrounds are respected and shared with the other children, so that they begin to learn about our multi-cultural society.

Children are looked after according to their parent's wishes. Parents are fully informed of the childminder's practice through discussions. She intends to use a daily diary system if minding young children during the day. This will help to ensure that parents are kept well informed about their child's day and contribute positively to children's well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and relaxed in the childminder's care. The childminder has a suitable understanding of the National Standards for childminding and is showing a commitment to developing her practice. She has completed her Introduction to Childminding Practice and an appropriate first aid course.

The childminder organises her day appropriately to provide children with a balance of activities and experiences both indoors and outdoors. She organises her paperwork suitably well and most of the required documentation is in place to support children's care and well-being. Records are accurate and satisfactorily maintained which helps promote outcomes for children.

Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has made good progress since the last inspection. She has attended a suitable first aid course and her certificate is valid for three years. This will enable her to provide first hand care for children in an emergency in accordance with current guidelines. The banisters have been made safe so children are unable to climb them and hazardous substances are now inaccessible to children, thus reducing potential hazards. All necessary emergency contacts and information for all children are now provided including parental contracts. This ensures that the childminder has all the necessary details on children to provide good care and parents are fully aware of what is expected of them. A register is now completed daily showing accurately the attendance of all children.

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):

- develop knowledge and understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- obtain appropriate insurance for the car and obtain written parental permission to transport children in a vehicle

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