

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	117012
Inspection date	29 March 2007
Inspector	Susan Victoria May

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 1994. She lives with her adult children in Reading, Berkshire. The ground floor of the premises is used for minding, upstairs for sleeps only. There is a secure garden for outdoor play.

The childminder may care for six children and is currently minding two children on a part time basis. The childminder is prepared to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools.

The family have pet rabbits.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care in a warm, clean home where the childminder is a good role model. Children are beginning to understand how their bodies work through routines and explanations from the childminder appropriate to their age. The childminder promotes personal hygiene. For example, children begin to use the bathroom

independently with gentle reminders from the childminder to follow good practice by flushing the toilet and washing hands. To protect children the childminder has appropriate documentation and written procedures in place for recording medication; procedures to record accidents are less effective. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate in place to ensure she can deal with minor accidents effectively.

Children have access to a variety of physical activities, which they enjoy and promote good health. They begin to develop control and co-ordination through activities the childminder offers both at her home and through attending local groups. Trips to local parks provide opportunities for children to run climb and improve physical skills. The childminder has a good understanding of how best to support the children's skills, develop their confidence, and provide activities to help children progress at their own rate. The childminder has a clear understanding of the development of babies and young children but has not yet had access to the Birth to three matters framework or training.

Children's dietary needs are met because the childminder works closely with parents. The childminder records and discusses the parent's preferences regarding food and individual children's needs. This ensures the needs of the children in her care are met. Drinks are available throughout the day and all meals are served at the table to encourage social interaction and help form the basis of future eating habits.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a range of resources suitable to the children's age and stage of development, from which children can easily self select. The childminder monitors and regularly rotates the toys from a large selection to ensure children's play is stimulating and challenging. For example, to complement the activity of icing and decorating Easter biscuits, the childminder set up the play kitchen and food for children to initiate their own play. The childminder carries out regular checks on all toys, resources and equipment and implements effective procedures to clean and maintain all toys and resources. This ensures they remain safe for the children to use.

The garden play area is safe for children to enjoy fresh air and play with good quality equipment that is suitable for their ages and needs. The childminder goes on outings regularly with the children and helps the children begin to understand about keeping safe. For example, Young children are secure in their car seats and buggies and older children walk with the childminder.

To safeguard children's welfare the childminder has a written child protection procedure and demonstrates a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and her responsibilities. However, procedures have not been updated in line with current Local Safe Guarding Children's Boards to ensure appropriate action is taken should she have concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are happy and content in the childminders home; they relax and play with and alongside each other confidently. There are many opportunities for children to make choices, they express personal preferences, self select from a broad range of equipment and help tidy away activities.

The childminder is warm and affectionate making children feel comfortable and valued. She has good relationships with the children; enjoys their company and knows them well. She spends a lot of time talking and playing with them; consequently, children have good support in their play and make good progress in all areas of development. Children follow routines that include outings on most days to local parks, shops and to the library for story time sessions. This provides children with opportunities to learn about the world around them in a familiar environment and give them confidence to try new experiences.

The childminder has an obvious understanding of providing children with a broad range of experiences, for example, helping develop imagination and self-expression through role play. She provides good opportunities for children to learn in all areas. The childminder and parents share daily information on the children to help them progress effectively.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder knows each child extremely well; she treats them with respect, meets their needs and values their individuality, helping them to feel good about themselves. The childminder has a positive understanding of all equal opportunities issues; this helps children develop an awareness of their own and other cultures. A good range of resources are available in the home that promotes positive images. The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of learning difficulties and/or disabilities and of offering support to ensure all children reach their potential. Children develop a sense of place and learn about where they live through regular outings within the local community. For example, to local shops and parks.

The childminder encourages children to behave and become aware of the house rules by gently reminding them of what is acceptable behaviour in an age appropriate manner. Children respond positively and show respect for the childminder, she in turn acknowledges them and values their efforts. For example, children happily help clear the table ready for lunch. Good use is made of praise and encouragement through play and everyday activities to promote children's self-esteem.

Relationships with parents are professional and friendly; Parents develop good open relationships with the childminder who encourages discussions on all aspects of their children's care and progress, this contributes to the children's wellbeing. The childminder shares with parent's information about daily events through daily verbal exchanges. The stable relationship between parents and childminder help provide the children with continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease in the childminder's environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The childminder offers appropriate adult support to help them feel secure and confident. Children benefit from the well thought out and planned environment that ensures they have a range of stimulating activities. This allows children room to play comfortably and freely in defined areas inside and outside the home. Most documentation that contributes to children's health, safety and wellbeing is in place. The childminder understands the importance of maintaining documentation and confidentiality.

The childminder shares information about the children on a daily basis with their parents to keep them informed about their child's activities and her service. This contributes to continuity in the child's care.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to complete a first aid course and review accident and incident procedures. The childminder has completed a paediatric first aid course and holds a valid first aid certificate. This ensures she can effectively deal with minor accidents. To safeguard children's welfare the childminder has introduced incident forms, however procedures for recording accidents continues to be an area for improvement.

The childminder was also asked to introduce a daily diary to inform parents of their babies' day. The childminder has introduced procedures that include the use of a daily diary for babies alongside verbal exchanges.

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):

- improve procedures for recording accidents ensuring these include parental signatures
- update information in line with local safeguarding children's board procedures and 'What To Do if You're Worried A Child is Being Abused-Summary'

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