



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	257074
Inspection date	05 February 2007
Inspector	Denise May Smith
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 1999. She lives with her husband, who is also a registered childminder, and three of their four children aged 12, 16 and an adult child in Peterborough. 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 six children at any one time, or nine when working with a co-childminder. She is currently jointly minding seven children under five and two child over five before and after school. The childminders walk to different local schools to take and collect children and attend the local toddler groups. The family has two cats and a tortoise.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their good health. They walk to and from school, play outdoors in the garden and visit the local parks and toddler groups. They use large and small apparatus, which contributes to the development of children's physical skills and helps them gain an interest in the outside world. The children are able to rest and be active according to their individual needs.

Children's health is promoted by appropriate procedures when they are sick or unwell, although these are not clearly shared with parents. Any medication administered to the children is recorded, but does not contain sufficient detail to underpin the care offered. Good daily routines ensure the premises and resources are clean and well maintained. Children are developing an understanding of the importance of good personal hygiene by being encouraged to wash their hands before meals and after using the lavatory. Sound procedures are followed during nappy changes which minimises cross infection.

Nutritious snacks and lunches are provided by the childminder promoting good health, or parents are welcome to supply a packed lunch. The childminder takes into account the wishes of the parents and the children. All children are beginning to develop an understanding of a healthy diet as they are able to grow, pick and eat fresh fruit and vegetables. Snack and meal times are considered a social time, taken together at the table; drinks are provided throughout the day ensuring they are well hydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a welcoming and safe environment. They enjoy using a broad assortment of clean and safe toys. Resources are readily accessible and children help themselves, changing toys as they wish. Children are encouraged to tidy the toys away when they have finished so they do not fall over them. The childminder carefully selects toys that are suitable, interesting and challenging. They are in good condition and conform to the required safety standards.

The home is safe and nursery equipment, such as stair gates and electrical socket covers help to ensure that the children are able to move around the premises safely. The childminder's home remains secure at all times and any medicines, chemicals or other hazardous items are stored out of the reach of the children. Effective fire safety measures are in place and the childminder has a theoretical fire evacuation plan, this is not however, practised with the children to develop their knowledge and understanding.

The children are successfully helped by the childminder and her co-childminder, to learn how to keep themselves safe on outings, or when walking to and from school. For example, the children hold the buggy or hold hands and learn basic road safety skills.

The childminder has a good understanding of the signs and possible indicators of child abuse and neglect. She has attended child protection training and has a good range of written information to refer to, which enables her to report any concerns quickly to the appropriate agency. As a result, children are safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children experience a varied range of activities which contribute to their overall development, incorporating a good balance of indoor and outdoor play.

Children have fun and are eager to learn, the childminder plans activities and experiences giving regard to their special interests. The children enjoy building with the Lego and playing with the range of different cars. They have a growing understanding of the world that they live in through outings into the local community, such as visiting the library and local toddler groups. The children also have the opportunity to swim weekly at the local pool. This enables the children to socialise with other children and begin to make sense of the wider world.

Children's communication skills are fostered well; the childminder talks to them and extends their language. The children enjoy the company of the childminder, they engage in purposeful play, such as, role playing ironing the dolls clothes, folding them up ready to put away. The children are developing confidence in their abilities, for example, when counting during routine play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and the childminder ensures that she promotes anti-discriminatory practice with all of the children in her care. Resources promoting positive images of diversity are used routinely by the children. They complete puzzles, share books, play with dolls and a range of small world figures which are representative of other cultures and disability. Children are supported as they celebrate festivals from around the world in a meaningful way, which reflect the cultures of the children in her care. She also understands about including children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities so that they can fully participate in activities. This benefits the children by raising their awareness of diversity and difference at an early age helping them to understand the concept of equality.

The childminder has a good understanding of strategies to use to help children learn what is and is not acceptable behaviour. She provides clear and consistent boundaries so that the children know what is expected of them. The childminder explains why it is kind to share and uses praise and encouragement well to help build children's self-esteem and to manage their behaviour.

The childminder values effective partnerships with parents to ensure a consistent approach in children's care. She takes time to establish what the children's care needs are before they attend and works with parents to ensure children are cared for consistently. She gathers information about children's likes and dislikes in addition to their care routines to ensure she is able to meet

their individual needs but, does not record these to underpin the care offered. She has most of the required written permission from parents in place. However, some need further development to ensure aspects of care, such as the application of sun-cream and the provision for swimming. The childminder keeps parents fully informed of their child's care and activities. A daily diary is completed by the childminder and taken home by parents for the younger children if required.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder ensures her home is organised so that children receive a good standard of care. Children are able to make choices and self-select from a range of age appropriate resources. Time is organised effectively and in accordance with the children's individual routines and around the school day. She works with her co-childminder so that they can collect children from different schools.

The childminder is waiting to begin training to gain an appropriate child-care qualification and attends numerous work-shops and courses to underpin the care offered to the children. She regularly meets with other childminders, which ensures she remains up-to-date with current child care practice. The childminder organises the content of the documentation used and her co-childminder transfers these to the computer so they can be printed as required, The daily registers are up-to-date and are generally her responsibility to maintain.

Documentation is organised and the childminder understands the requirement to keep records up-to-date. Such as, ensuring children's medical details and parent's mobile phone numbers are updated regularly. Policies are verbally shared with parents.

Overall, the needs of the children who attend are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to, make the garden safe and fit smoke alarms to all floors. Both of these actions have been completed improving the safety of the premises. She also agreed to obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children. Both of these records are now kept, although further detail is required in the medication records. She has developed her knowledge and understanding of local child protection referral procedures by attending training and now has the local and national child protection guidance to refer to if required which further protects children. The childminder has improved her knowledge and awareness on issues around promoting equal opportunities and developed the available resources supporting children's understanding of the wider-world. There is now a written agreement in place with all parents setting out the business arrangements of the care offered. She was asked to consider devising a written policy with regard to children who are sick. This remains a recommendation from this inspection. Overall by addressing most of these actions and recommendations the quality of the care offered to the children has improved.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- develop the sick children's exclusion policy and share this with parents. Ensure that the recording of any medication administered to children contains sufficient detail to fully underpin the care offered
- develop the fire evacuation procedures and practise these with the children
- develop the recording of children's information to under-pin the care offered, to include likes, dislikes, race and culture and develop agreements for activities such as swimming and the application of sun-cream.

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