



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118981
Inspection date	25 January 2007
Inspector	Mandy Gannon
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 outstanding. 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 1986. She lives with her husband, two adult children and one child aged over eight. They live in a house in Forest Park close to schools, shops and parks. The childminder currently has eight children under eight on roll, all who attend a variety of part-time hours.

All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family have one cat and a tortoise.

The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. She has relevant childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs are met exceptionally well as the childminder is aware of children's requirements to sleep and adapts sleeping routines according to their needs. For example, a young baby sleeps close by in the dining room and is beginning to get used to sleeping in a travel cot.

Children enjoy a variety of outdoor activities including trips to the woods, walks and a well resourced enclosed garden. Children have regular opportunities for physical activities which contribute to their development of a healthy lifestyle.

Children have a comprehensive understanding of health and hygiene. Children wash their hands before snacks and after visiting the toilet, signs in the toilet remind them and the childminder actively promotes, why hand washing is important. Children are developing an understanding of the benefits of healthy eating. They have home cooked nutritious snacks and all meals are provided by the childminder. Some children attend for breakfast and the childminder liquidises food for babies. The childminder takes into account parental wishes and provides and meets any dietary requirements. She shares a planned menu with the children and it is on display on the notice board for parents. Children are safeguarded from infection as the childminder follows excellent hygiene practices. She wears gloves when changing nappies and immediately disposes of appropriately, minimising the spread of infection.

The childminder supports younger children by using the Birth to three matters framework and uses a tracking system for young children to monitor and observe their development. She shares records with parents to ensure that the child's development and emotional well-being is met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children have sufficient space to move freely promoting their independence without compromising their safety. The childminder ensures that all safety precautions are in place and the children's safety is paramount. Children are safe, secure and protected in a well-resourced environment where they have suitable toys and resources. Children are developing an awareness of dangers and hazards. For example, the childminder asks a child to sit still on a stool when she is feeding the baby to prevent her from falling.

The childminder has comprehensive detailed policies and procedures in place that are shared with parents and promote children's safety and well-being. She holds a current first aid certificate and ensures that first aid equipment is taken in her car and on outings. She has all required procedures and documents in place to promote children's welfare.

The childminder has a high level of understanding and secure knowledge of child protection. She has attended courses and has policies and procedures in place, which include details of the local safeguarding children's board in the area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are developing a strong sense of confidence and self-esteem as they receive constant praise and encouragement from the childminder. They are developing their independence as the childminder encourages them to select activities and tidy up.

Children show interest, enjoyment and involvement in what they are doing and develop their knowledge through discussions with the childminder. For example, a child is looking through a book with the childminder on houses and a conversation develops about different types of housing and new vocabulary such as 'igloo' is introduced. Children eagerly wait for story time using story sacks and participate in the introduction of different puppets at appropriate parts in the story. Children thrive in the relaxed environment where they are the childminders top priority.

Children's individual needs are met through a childminder who has an accurate view of those needs through training, in discussion with parents and working together. She is committed to meeting those needs and will adapt activities to fulfil those needs. For example, she plans topics for the children, she identifies areas where children may need support and adapts accordingly. For example, a child may need extra help in identification of colours, children mix colours and the childminder will make her own resources to support their learning. Children have opportunities for planned activities and are able to self-select and the childminder is led by the needs of the children.

Children's individual needs are paramount in the childminders care. She uses the Birth to three matters framework to plan activities, support and record children's progress together with daily diaries for younger children. Children relate extremely well to the childminder and each other. The childminders care and consideration for children's learning is inspirational and she excels at accommodating all their needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are valued as individuals and the childminder ensures they receive individual attention. For example, a child sits next to the childminder and shows a book whilst the childminder feeds the baby, the childminder talks to the older child but also interacts with the baby whilst feeding, explaining to the child that when she has finished she will read a story. When the baby is settled playing on the play mat the older child sits with the childminder and they read a story using the story sack. The childminder has several childcare qualifications and a wealth of experience working with children.

Children develop a strong sense of belonging as they have their own pegs, their own cots and their paintings and drawings are displayed. Children are polite, courteous and exceptionally well behaved due to the childminder being clear, calm and consistent, working together with the parents and giving children explanations.

Children develop an awareness of the community and the wider world through visits to local toddler groups, the surrounding area and the toys and resources that are available. The childminder borrows story sacks and other resources from the local lending library and reflects through topics.

The childminder works extremely closely with parents and carers; she exchanges information daily verbally and through daily diaries to ensure all parties are well informed. Parents receive copies of the clear comprehensive policies that are in place. Parents receive information about their child's progress and the childminder works closely with the parents to support them. For example, she has put parents in contact with one another and organised a baby sitting circle as many parents live away from their families.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. All children benefit from an exceptionally well-organised provision and a service offered from a dedicated professional.

Children are at ease, settled and involved in a well-organised environment. Children initiate and select their own play equipment and are supported appropriately from an enthusiastic, motivated childminder.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and their continuity of care is promoted through robust, clear and detailed policies and procedures, which are shared with parents. The childminder has thorough detailed documentation in place which is regularly reviewed and updated. The childminder has extensive training and keeps up to date with training and the constant evolving changes in childcare.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that a record was kept regarding all persons living, employed or who had regular contact with children. A record detailing this is now in place.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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