



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256908
Inspection date	19 February 2007
Inspector	Anna Davies

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 1993. She lives with her husband and son aged 23 years in a village on the outskirts of Peterborough. The whole ground floor and the upstairs bathroom of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a large section of the garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five years on a full and part time basis and four children aged over five years before and after school on a part time basis. There were no children present at the time of inspection. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder describes how children learn about their personal hygiene through normal daily routines, such as washing their hands and using anti-bacterial hand gel after using the toilet, before and after eating and cooking activities. If the children become unwell whilst in the care of the childminder, she has systems in place to make sure that appropriate care is given, for example, if children need to have medicine. The childminder obtains clear written permission from parents, records each dosage that she administers and then parents sign to acknowledge that they have been properly informed: this promotes children's ongoing health and safety. However, methods for recording accidents and informing parents of these, are not recorded in a way that promotes confidentiality.

The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of how children's health is promoted. She ensures that children have regular opportunities to play outdoors in the garden whatever the weather so that they benefit from fresh air and exercise. The childminder describes how younger children's routines are followed to ensure that their physical needs are met, for example, younger children sleep according to their individual needs and parent's wishes.

From discussion, the childminder demonstrates a suitable understanding of healthy eating. She says that she offers children choices at snack times and mealtimes and provides them with easy access to a choice of water, milk or juice during the day so that they remain well hydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder takes effective action to ensure that children can move around the play areas independently and safely, for example, the childminder moves furniture to allow younger children access to more floor space to play. She explains how she checks toys and equipment to ensure that they are in good condition. The childminder describes how she teaches children the 'Green Cross Code' and the importance of staying within her sight as they walk to and from school, so that they learn to keep themselves safe.

The childminder takes some suitable action to ensure that risks indoors and outdoors have been minimised so that children are kept safe, for example, children's safety in the event of a fire is promoted as smoke alarms are checked regularly to make sure they are working properly and a fire blanket is provided appropriately in the kitchen in case of a kitchen fire. The childminder explains that she teaches the children about how to exit the house in the event of a fire which is effective in keeping them safe in an emergency. However, the childminder has not completely minimised all potential risks to children, particularly the security of the premises both inside and outside. The front and back doors are kept unlocked whilst minding children. This presents a potential risk to children's safety as they are able to leave the premises unsupervised. Children are generally protected when they are outside because the childminder constantly supervises the children. However, the garden is not fully enclosed which is not completely effective in ensuring that children do not leave the premises unsupervised.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of child protection procedures, which are inline with those set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. She has attended training to ensure that her knowledge is up to date and has information leaflets to enable her to act in a child's best interests in the event of any concerns for their welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder talks about how she helps children to enjoy their time at her house. She provides challenging activities such as board games, Lego and jigsaws for the older children. The childminder talks about how she shares songs and rhymes with the younger children and promotes their mathematical skills by counting their feet, toes and fingers. All children have many opportunities to develop their creativity as they frequently draw, paint, colour and write using a good range of materials and tools such as pencils, paintbrushes and scissors. Children each have their own scrapbook to put their pictures and photos, in which is then shared with each other and their parents, providing a lovely record of the activities that they have particularly enjoyed whilst with the childminder. Younger children have frequent opportunities to socialise with other children as they regularly attend a local group run by the childminder.

Equipment is organised so that children can choose their resources from those available and learn to make decisions. The childminder encourages children to care for their toys and use them appropriately.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrated through discussion that she has a sound understanding of behaviour management issues. She uses strategies, such as clear and careful explanations to help children understand what is expected of them. The childminder tells how she promotes equal opportunities and helps children learn about all members of society by providing them with access to suitable resources. The childminder has an adequate knowledge and understanding of effectively supporting children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The childminder has developed suitable procedures and policies to enable her to develop a positive relationship with parents and carers. She ensures that mostly clear information is gathered and records are kept up to date. However, children's records do not include information regarding children's religious and cultural needs which does not always ensure that all their individual needs are taken into account. Most required parental consents are in place to effectively support children's safety and well-being. However, written parental permission is not obtained to transport children in a vehicle. This does not ensure that parents are fully aware of the activities that their children participate in. The childminder provides opportunities for parents to discuss their children's progress each day at hand over times so that all aspects of children's care is discussed and agreed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Evidence suggests that the organisation of the childminding would promote positive outcomes for children. The organisation of the play space and resources would contribute to children's independence and enable them to pursue their own interests. There is enough space for them to be able to play safely and move freely indoors and out. The childminder regularly attends training opportunities to ensure that her knowledge and practice is up to date.

Evidence suggests that essential documents are stored confidentially. Suitable systems to maintain records have been established. However, some documentation is in need of updating to improve information for parents and to ensure that children's individual needs are fully met. A sound range of policies have been developed and are shared with parents. These are effective in promoting children's general safety, health and well-being. The childminder uses the 'Birth to three matters framework' to influence her practice with children under 3 years of age.

Overall, evidence suggests that the needs of all children would be met.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no recommendations raised at the last inspection

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):

- further develop accident and incident records to ensure that the information recorded remains confidential

- ensure that potential hazards to children are minimised, with particular regard to the security of the front and back doors and ensuring children cannot leave the premises unsupervised whilst playing in the garden
- obtain specific written permission from parents for transporting children in a vehicle. Update children's records to include information regarding children's religious and cultural needs.

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