

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	133572
Inspection date	29 May 2007
Inspector	Jan Leo
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 1994. She lives with her husband and two children, aged 18 and 20 years, on a residential housing estate on the edge of Banbury. The property is situated close to local shops and schools. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor which includes a designated play room. Toilet and sleeping facilities are provided upstairs. There is an enclosed, split level garden to the rear of the property, and children have access to the lower level for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for up to six children under the age of eight years and she currently looks after seven children under the age of eight years and six children over eight years of age, on a full or part time basis.

The childminder takes children on outings, and regularly makes use of local facilities including toddler groups, family centre, and baby bounce at the sports centre. The family has a pet cat and a rabbit.

The childminder is a member of the Trio quality assurance network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn all about a healthy lifestyle because the childminder teaches them about good hygiene, promotes healthy eating and provides fresh air and exercise. Children play in a scrupulously clean environment without any inhibitions. The childminder takes a relaxed approach to cleaning, wiping up spills as necessary to keep the home clean and fresh, without being obsessive. The childminder constantly cuddles and strokes babies, including them in everything she does, to make sure they settle easily and feel emotionally secure in her care. Children have supervised access to the family pets, which the childminder keeps clean and healthy to avoid risks to children's health. All receive reminders about hand washing after touching the animals and children take pride in washing their hands, without help, from an early age. The childminder has clear and effective accident and medication procedures and ample first aid supplies to treat children's injuries appropriately. She carries a first aid box with her on outings to enable her to attend to injuries and alleviate children's distress promptly when away from her home. The childminder keeps parents and carers fully informed about their children's health issues by routinely sharing her clear and detailed accident and medication records. Children bring their own meals from home and the childminder advises parents on suitable lunch box foods to promote healthy eating and encourage children to broaden their tastes. Children receive additional refreshments, in the form of nutritious snacks and drinks, to sustain them between meals. They eagerly help prepare fruits to share, discussing favourites and trying new foods, such as Kiwi fruit. Older children show considerable interest in food and relish the opportunity to make cakes and lick the spoon when the mixing is finished.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in an extremely well maintained home which is light, bright, spacious and homely. They have free access to all areas of the ground floor and let the childminder know if they need to go upstairs. Older children rapidly learn to close the stair gate after themselves in order to protect younger children from accidents on the stairs and take some responsibility for safety from an early age. All children have ample space to spread out as they play, and the childminder supervises tirelessly to ensure children learn how to play safely without affecting other children's games. Both the children and the childminder wear socks inside the house to reduce the spread of dirt and germs, but all the floors are easy-clean laminate, putting children at risk of injury through slipping. The childminder keeps all resources in a safe and hygienic condition to preserve children's welfare, and she routinely carries out safety checks, taking account of children's ever-changing ability and levels of curiosity. She sets clear expectations to ensure children learn to respect the furniture and equipment, and, as a result, the children play sensibly and safely. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures and her responsibility to safeguard children from harm. She keeps reference material easily available to aid speedy referrals if she has concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children receive a very high level of attention to ensure they all feel part of the group and enjoy their day. The childminder constantly repositions the baby seat and skilfully includes young children in conversation to display interest in their activities and help them make sense

of things. All children are very sociable and confident. They play together exceptionally well considering the age variation, and all have opportunities to choose what to do and where to play. The childminder routinely joins in the activities, seating young children on her lap to help them paint, and explaining the next steps clearly when creating decorative plant pots for parents. The children are eager to participate in all the activities and receive encouragement from the childminder. At times, the childminder adds 'finishing touches' to children's work while praising their efforts, giving mixed messages about children's achievements. The setting is relaxed and homely and, as a result, the children learn effortlessly. The childminder makes good use of every learning opportunity, such as counting out spoonfuls of ingredients when cooking and sharing out fruit for snack. The childminder plans activities for the week to provide a balanced programme to help children develop and learn. She displays the plan on the wall to give children an idea of what they can look forward to and inform parents and carers about the day.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children feel valued and included because the childminder treats them as individuals, showing them respect and trust. Children learn to be considerate towards their peers and readily accept others joining in their games. The childminder involves children in helping with routine tasks to develop their self-esteem and, as a result, they are very confident, sociable and independent. The childminder is willing to accept children with special needs and she attends relevant training to increase her knowledge and equip her with the skills to help children progress. She uses signing to help communication with those who do not speak, and aims to provide a welcoming setting where children feel comfortable and thrive. The childminder has a few simple house rules to help children learn to respect belongings, and she acts as a very good role model for them to follow. The children remember their manners, show respect for others, and are developing genuine concern for younger children. For example, one swiftly asked if a child was all right when she slipped on the floor, and another gave the baby hugs and kisses to ensure she felt wanted. The childminder has extremely clear folders of information for parents and carers to see, to keep them updated about the service. Essential information is on display to enable adults to share their views with Ofsted, and the childminder makes herself available at any time for discussion about her service and the care she offers.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She dedicates all her time to the children and is proactive in eliminating hazards and increasing her skills to keep standards high. The childminder regularly attends training courses to continue her personal development and, as a result, she manages the children extremely well, plans and executes activities with ease, and joins in effortlessly to ensure everyone has fun. The standard of hygiene is very high and health and safety precautions are generally very effective. The childminder provides comprehensive information for parents and carers about how the setting operates. All the essential documentation, required by regulation, is in place. The paperwork is clear, accurate and contains the level of detail needed to provide a high quality service. The childminder keeps all children's personal information confidential to preserve privacy.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were five recommendations made following the last inspection including one regarding supervision of drinks to prevent children sharing cups, one regarding medication records, and three concerning the activities. The provider now makes sure all children sit for refreshments and she sits with them to ensure children drink only from their own cup in order to avoid the spread of germs.

The provider has now adopted the National Childminder Association record book for medication and she keeps clear and accurate records. She shares these records with parents and carers, to keep them well informed of their children's health issues.

The three recommendations surrounding activities related to developing children's independence, extending their interests and play ideas, and keeping children focused to prevent behaviour deteriorating. The childminder now regularly involves children in helping with routine tasks and trusts them to complete some tasks on their own. This has helped children grow in confidence and they are becoming increasingly independent. Children are now offered a selection of activities and asked what they would like to do. The childminder complies with any special requests and successfully joins in play to encourage participation and extend ideas. This serves to address two of the recommendations because the children now show great interest in everything and, as a result, remain well occupied, focused and very well behaved.

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 safety by taking precautions to prevent children from slipping on the laminate floors.

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