

Inspection report for early years provision

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Unique Reference Number | 119052 |
| Inspection date | 23 May 2007 |
| Inspector | Amanda 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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1994. She is registered to provide care for four children under eight years, of these, not more than two may be under five years, and of these, not more than one may be under one year. This registration does not include overnight care. There are currently two children on roll.

The childminder lives with her husband, two teenage children and two children under 10 years. The family live in a terraced house in a small close off the A329 on the outskirts of Ascot. Childminding is confined to the playroom, dining room, hallway and kitchen. Toilet and sleeping facilities are also available within this area. There is a fully enclosed garden which backs onto a service road for the houses of the close with woodland behind.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder has procedures in place to protect children from illness. She demonstrates an understanding of ensuring the spread of illness and infection is minimised through requesting

children with contagious illnesses stay at home to protect the other children in her care. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own health care by washing their hands and going to the toilet on their own, however the childminder is there to support children who need help.

Children learn about personal hygiene through their daily routines. Children come in from school, independently, change out of their uniforms, wash their hands and have a snack of fruit or raw vegetables such as peppers, cucumber or carrot. Children know to take their shoes off inside the house and independently store these where they belong. Children are provided with healthy meals which are well balanced and nutritious. They develop social skills as they eat meals together at the table, whilst having a chance to talk about their day. The childminder manages accidents and the administration of medication appropriately. However, as the childminder does not have emergency medical consent in place for each child, children's health and well-being is highly compromised.

Children benefit from a range of physical activities which include use of the garden and visits to local parks. Children are taken swimming with parental permission and are allowed to access the trampoline in the childminder's garden under supervision. This ensures children of all ages can enjoy fun activities whilst keeping active.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe through the childminder's sound procedures. Children follow rules in place to keep themselves safe, such as not playing on the trampoline without adult supervision, and playing with small toys away from babies and younger children. The childminder has a secure understanding of the action she would take in a fire, and has started to practise fire drills with the children in her care. Smoke alarms are in place around the home. The premises in which children are cared for is welcoming secure and safe. The childminder mentally risk assesses the surroundings each day, and puts cushions down when the door in the living room is open so any young children are protected from bumps.

Children learn how to be safe when they are walking to school or on outings. Children hold hands as they walk, and know to stick together and stay close by one another. The childminder tells children to watch out for the cars, and reminds them that although the child can see the car, the car may not see them. Children are protected from too much sun, as parents supply sun-cream which the childminder administers, however there are currently no signed permission slips in place from parents. Children enjoy playing in the garden and benefit from sitting under big umbrellas to keep them cool in hot weather whilst they have a rest.

Children are protected through the childminder's understanding of issues surrounding safeguarding children. The childminder is currently awaiting to access training in child protection, which will increase her knowledge of what action to take if she has concerns about a child's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children experience a range of activities which contribute to their development inside and outside the home. The childminder encourages babies to experiment with different toys and materials and plays 'peep-boo'. Children are interested in what the childminder can do, and

are keen to copy her in pressing buttons on toys that make music and different noises. Babies play with a musical instrument from Africa. They wave it in the air looking pleased when they make the special noise. The childminder encourages children to experiment, and whilst doing this, provides them with some support in their play.

Children are provided with many resources, and older children independently self-select their toys from a cupboard in the play-room. Children enjoy accessing different toys, and to keep children stimulated the childminder rotates toys with others which are stored upstairs. Children gain independent skills as they take responsibility for their own belongings. Children who attend school carry their own book bags, and babies are encouraged to feed themselves as they are given a spoon to use whilst the childminder is feeding them. Children strap themselves into the childminder's car when going on journeys before the childminder checks to see if they are all safely buckled in. This allows children to gain self-esteem and take responsibility for themselves, whilst the childminder ensures their safety is not compromised.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children develop an awareness of social diversity as they play with toys and resources which celebrate difference. Children play with dolls from different cultures, and enjoy tasting and talking about different foods from around the world. Children taste noodles and curry and talk about their own cultures and what foods they like to eat at home. The childminder is aware that some children develop learning difficulties and disabilities and knows to support these by providing suitable activities and sharing information with parents.

Children at the setting generally behave well. The childminder has effective procedures in place to encourage good behaviour from the children in her care. The childminder ensures children understand the difference between right and wrong, and works with parents to ensure suitable methods are in place to support individual children as necessary.

The childminder develops sound relationships with parents through effective communication as she talks to them about the children's day at the end of each session. The childminder also speaks to parents on the telephone during the week if parents do not have the chance to stay to talk. Children are given many visits to help them settle in when they first start. The childminder allows parents to decide how long children need to visit for before leaving them in the childminder's care. This ensures children settle effectively and each individual child feels secure in their new environment.

However, the childminder is not aware of the October 2005 amendments to the National Standards, and as a result does not have in place a complaints procedures or a record for complaints to be logged for parents to view at any time. Subsequently, a regulation has not been met.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder organises her time and ratios effectively. She demonstrates an awareness of how to meet the needs of the children in her care through planning outings, visits and experiences outside of the home. Children benefit from visits to music and movement groups as well as meeting new friends at parks and play areas. The childminder plans to update her knowledge surrounding safeguarding children, however she does not plan to do any other

training to improve her service further. Procedures are in place that work in practice, however as these are not written down, parents are not able to see copies in order to be fully informed about the service the childminder provides.

As the childminder is not fully aware of the amendments to the National Standards, regulations have not been met. Therefore, the childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection, the provider was recommended to ensure arrival and departure times of children was recorded, ensure a system was in place to record children's allergies and special dietary needs and to gain written parental consent to obtain emergency medical treatment.

The childminder has now implemented a system to find out about children's individual allergies and special dietary requirements. This information is kept accessible in each child's file. Children's arrival and departure times are now recorded daily in the register. As a result of these changes, children's safety has been improved. However, the childminder has not taken any action to gain written parental consent to obtain emergency medical treatment or advice. As this has not been addressed children's health and well-being are still compromised.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment,
- keep a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken,
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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