

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	113112
Inspection date	30 April 2007
Inspector	Heidi Wilton
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 has been registered since 1990. She lives with her husband and adult daughter. They live in a house situated close to the A334 which links Hedge End and Botley. The childminder currently minds two children of pre school age and four children of school age. The children have access to the playroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, cloakroom and bathroom. There is an enclosed garden with grassed area. The family have a pet cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder follows sound hygiene procedures when changing nappies to ensure children are protected from cross infection. She washes her hands and disposes of nappies in the outside bin. The childminder cleans work surfaces, tables and high chairs with antibacterial cleaner to protect children from germs.

The childminder has appropriate systems for recording accidents and administering of medication, keeping children safe and healthy and parents informed. She has plenty of first

aid resources should any of the children have an accident, although her first aid qualification has expired. The childminder has obtained written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment which ensures children are treated without delay in an emergency.

Food is provided for young children by their parents. The childminder ensures these foods are stored appropriately and at the correct temperature. She washes her hands before and after preparing foods to prevent cross contamination. The childminder provides a healthy snack of fruit for children after school and discusses the healthy benefits of the fruits with the children. The childminder has a sound understanding of the children's dietary and allergy requirements which ensures their needs are catered for.

Children's physical development is promoted as they enjoy skipping and playing ball games in the garden. They walk to and from school and look for wildlife. The children enjoy looking through the childminder's books to see if they can spot the wildlife from their walk. During school holidays the childminder takes the children to local farms, indoor play zones and to local attractions.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move around the environment freely and choose from a variety of activities and resources. Children are supervised when choosing activities from the play room to ensure they are safe. For example, young children are supervised to ensure they do not play with small toys which may be dangerous. All doors are secured when not being used and stair gates are used if needed, depending on the age group which are present. The childminder keeps children safe with appropriate age related equipment, such as buggies, potties and highchairs. She gains parental permission to take children on public transport when taking them on outings.

The childminder uses appropriate safety equipment to ensure children are protected from accidental injury. For example, fitted safety locks ensure hazardous cleaning materials are inaccessible to children and working smoke alarms are in place. The childminder discusses the fire drill with the children ensuring they are fully knowledgeable of what to do in a fire. She risk assesses the equipment and environment on a daily basis to ensure it is well maintained and safe for the children.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of her professional responsibilities regarding child protection. The childminder is very knowledgeable about recording signs and symptoms and ensures parents understand her professional duty from the outset.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content at the childminder's house and smile as the childminder interacts with them. The childminder has built good relationships with both the children and the parents which allows her to recognise each child's individual routines and needs. She sits at child level, continually talking to the young children. The childminder responds to what the young babies say to her, often repeating their 'babbling' to ensure they feel valued for what they are communicating. She sings familiar nursery rhymes with the babies who smile and clap their hands. Babies become engaged as they watch the colours whizzing around on the spinning tops and love to bang the beater on the xylophone.

Older children initiate their own games and enjoy playing with the variety of jigsaw puzzles and board games. They have fun engaging in a variety of art and craft activities, such as manipulating the play dough using tools and cutters. The childminder incorporates mathematics and language skills incidentally into everyday activities. For example, she encourages children to count how many juice cups are filled with water or what letters they can see in the environment. She sits close to the children, offering support and guidance in their play. The childminder helps children with their homework and assists them in finding information needed for school projects. For example, she encourages the children to look at the factual history books and takes them to the library to find additional information. She gives them lots of positive encouragement and praise for their achievements. This in turn allows children to flourish and develop high levels of confidence.

Children have many opportunities to engage in imaginary play, such as dressing up as doctors and nurses and caring for the baby dolls. They have fun playing with the toy kitchen and make each other meals. Children enjoy participating with water and sand play in the garden. They love playing with the toy Mobile people in the sand and have fun splashing and exploring the water. They have opportunities for quiet and rest as they relax on the sofa with a book or have a sleep.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder values all children as individuals and shows them equal respect. She acknowledges their routines and is adaptable to ensure their personal needs are catered for. She encourages the children to use good manners and gently reminds them to say 'please' and 'thank you'. She fosters an awareness with the children about why some people in society have disabilities or additional needs. The childminder looks at a wide range of books with the children regarding different religions and cultures. This broadens children's knowledge of diversity within society. The childminder works in partnership with parents and outside agencies and continues action plans to achieve consistency for the children.

The childminder shares her behavioural policy with parents from the outset. She communicates with them regarding strategies used to ensure the child is gaining consistent behavioural techniques both at home and the childminder's. She uses positive language and praise with the children. The childminder discusses unacceptable behaviour with the children, talking to them about their feelings. This helps children gain the tools needed to manage their own behaviour. The childminder uses stickers and charts for specific achievements, such as toilet training and works alongside the parents.

The childminder gives parents good verbal feedback each day detailing achievements, concerns or issues. In addition, she gives parents of young children a written description of their child's day and routine. Parents are welcome to talk to the childminder after working hours if they have worries or concerns. The childminder ensures parents are knowledgeable about her policies and procedures from the outset. Parents are very happy with the provision and feel they receive detailed feedback at the end of each day. The childminder informs parents when their child first starts of routes to follow should they have a concern. She knows her responsibility to keep a log of concerns should any arise.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures her registration certificate is displayed to keep parents informed of her conditions of registration. She remains in ratio at all times and ensures the children's attendance is recorded on arrival and departure. Children are cared for by an experienced childminder. However, the childminder has not obtained an updated first aid qualification due to her difficulty in securing a place on a course. This is a breach of her requirements as a childminder and compromises the health and safety of children in her care. The childminder has demonstrated the first aid qualification will be achieved in the near future as she has gained a place on a course next month.

The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of ensuring all adults in the household are vetted. She keeps all documentation confidential and shares her policies and procedures with parents at the outset. The childminder has adequate understanding of the National Standards and current legislation. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to address two recommendations for care. She was asked to ensure all low level glass is protected. The childminder has now covered all low level glass with protective film which ensures all children are kept safe. The childminder was also asked to record details, times and information following any medical procedure. She now records details, times and information for all administering of medicine. This ensures all children remain safe and healthy.

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):

- obtain an up-to-date paediatric first aid qualification.

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