

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY345383
Inspection date	20 June 2007
Inspector	Hazel Farrant
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 2006. She lives with her partner and one child aged eight months old, in the North Lake area of Bracknell, Berkshire. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children and is currently caring for three children under five years old on a part-time basis. The childminder drives to school to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group and takes children to the library and local parks. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The family has one dog and goldfish as family pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean environment where the necessary steps are taken to ensure rooms remain at an appropriate temperature. Cross contamination is prevented by good procedures; the childminder wears gloves to change nappies and children sleep on individual bedding. Although children are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times, procedures are not consistent. For example, young children play with the dog and then sit down for snack time without having their hands cleansed.

The childminder has good information on infectious diseases and has a health and hygiene policy, which is shared with parents to protect children from illness. Children receive any necessary medication only with their parents' consent and this is accurately recorded. The childminder holds a current first aid qualification and has a good supply of first aid equipment. Any accidents are recorded and reported to parents without delay. Parental consent is sought for emergency medical treatment or advice.

Children's health is promoted through daily opportunities to use the garden and enjoy fresh air. They regularly go to local play areas. Children's large muscle skills are developed as they use the wide range of physical play resources to climb, balance, bounce and slide. Children have good opportunities to be active or sleep and rest, according to their own individual needs.

Children benefit from freshly cooked nutritious meals. Healthy snacks include cheese, dried and fresh fruit. A menu diary keeps parents informed of the meals their children enjoy. Children access drinks throughout the day; this insures they do not become dehydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe through good procedures and supervision, the front door is kept locked to prevent children leaving the premises unsupervised. The garden is enclosed and the rear gate is secure. The good supply of toys and resources are well maintained and stored safely to enable children to make choices. Toys are appropriate to the children's ages and stages of development. Children have good space to play and can sit safely at the table, for example, strapped into a booster seat or highchair. The childminder sits with the children while they are eating which protects them from choking hazards.

Children are protected by the well thought through emergency evacuation procedures, which are practised to ensure they are understood by the children. Smoke alarms on each floor are regularly tested and a fire blanket is wall mounted in an appropriate place in the kitchen. Children are transported safely in appropriate car seats; all required parental consents are in place. Children's welfare is protected by the childminder's good knowledge of child protection issues. Babies sleep safely; the childminder physically checks them at regular intervals.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have good relationships with the childminder. She is aware of each individual child's developmental needs and ensures they receive appropriate support. She listens to and talks

with the children to develop their language skills, acknowledging what they say. The children receive lots of praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements from the childminder. This promotes their self-esteem and confidence.

The children take part in a wide range and variety of activities throughout the week, both in and out of doors. The childminder plans each day according to the needs of the children attending and their individual routines.

The children benefit from attending toddler clubs where they learn social skills and take part in a variety of different activities. Within the home, the children make choices about what they would like to do and direct their own play. For example, playing with construction toys and looking at books. Each day children have the opportunity to enjoy outside play and explore the environment. They also take part in planned activities, for example, children plant tomato seeds and keep a diary of how the seeds are growing.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. For example, children's artwork is displayed in the lounge, which gives them a sense of belonging. They are very happy and relaxed in the childminder's home and are at ease in their play. Good behaviour is appropriately fostered by the childminder's positive reinforcement. The childminder acts as a good role model and is caring and gentle towards the children. The childminder is aware of supporting children with additional needs so that they make progress in line with their stage of development and abilities.

The childminder works extremely well with parents. Comprehensive information is exchanged with parents to ensure children are cared for within their usual routines. Parents receive both written and verbal information to keep them well informed about the setting and their children's care and development. This is through diaries and the use of 'tracker books', which records children's progress.

Children learn about their local community through going on trips to local parks, toddler groups and library. They have access to appropriate toys that reflect cultural diversity, although this is limited.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the childminder competently putting into practice her policies and procedures; many of which are in writing, to ensure parents are consistently informed. Children's care and welfare is effectively promoted and protected through the childminder's organisation of her home, time and documentation.

Children's attendance is accurately recorded and her certificate of registration is displayed. The childminder has completed the necessary training and is eager to continue to increase her knowledge. Children are protected by the childminder's awareness of keeping Ofsted informed of significant events. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- ensure good hygiene practices are followed consistently with particular attention to handwashing
- further extend the range of resources to include more items which reflect positive images of diversity, to include differing abilities.

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