



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	162147
Inspection date	08 June 2005
Inspector	Ann Field

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 registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and their two children aged 7 and 11 in South Heath, a village near Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding six children under five years with a further nine over five years; all children attend on a part time basis. The childminder goes to the local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group on a regular

basis. The family has two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Well-established daily routines mean that children rest according to their own needs. Children have easy access to the toilet and the childminder promotes their good health with her hygienic nappy changing routines.

Children benefit from a wide range of physical activities that include the regular use of the large garden with the space to explore, run and climb. Children are gaining new skills and developing their confidence because the childminder has a high level of awareness of appropriate activities and the level of support individual children require.

Children are expanding their social skills through eating snacks and meals together at the table. The childminder discusses with parents now they would like her to meet their children's dietary needs, food and drink supplied by them is stored appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality equipment. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Good organisation means that children can move around safely and freely access the toys.

The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare and has all the required procedures and documentations in place. For example, she holds a current first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

Children learn to keep themselves safe through good examples and gentle reminders. The childminder ensures that she has fully addressed safety issues in her spacious home and when taking children on outings.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children develop affectionate relationships with the childminder, who has an excellent understanding of their needs; she interacts fully in their play and gives frequent cuddles and reassurance. The children are learning to become independent and gaining self-esteem through making choices in an environment reflecting positive

images. Younger children benefit from her experience; she ensures they have easy access to the age appropriate toys and equipment.

Children take part in an extensive range of well-resourced activities, with themes extending from the local school. For example, they are currently involved in a project related to growth, learning about the importance of sun and water on the seeds they have planted.

Children settle well at the childminder's home; they enter confidently and quickly become absorbed in play. They are very happy and spend their time purposefully exploring a wide range of activities that contribute to their creativity and imagination. The childminder is extremely aware of children's individual needs and follows daily routines. She promotes the children's well-being and provides an environment that offers high levels of challenge.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are highly valued as individuals and they develop a positive attitude to others. The childminder meets the children's needs well; they follow their normal daily routine as discussed with their parents. The children feel relaxed and at home in the well-organised environment, this means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning.

The childminder uses appropriate strategies for managing behaviour; children learn to understand right from wrong and play together harmoniously. Children feel comfortable and at ease, they are learning to share, to respect each other and their surroundings.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that the children receive good continuity of care; she has an informative portfolio, exchanges information daily but does not have a written agreement with them. Children enjoy attending and parents say how pleased they are with the care provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend. They spend a purposeful and happy time with the childminder who organises and plans her activities well. She keeps all regulatory documents and effectively uses the policies and procedures to ensure that she protects the children's welfare and promotes their learning.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved her record keeping to safeguard children's well being. She now ensures that she obtains from all parents

their written consent to seek emergency medical treatment.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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 that a written agreement is set up with all parents.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk