

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	257101
Inspection date	04 May 2007
Inspector	Anna Davies
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 was registered in 1998. She lives with her husband and their elder daughters in Orton Goldhay, to the south of Peterborough city centre. 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 six children at any one time whilst minding on her own and a maximum of nine children when minding with an assistant. She is currently minding three children under five on a full and part time basis and four children before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The family have no pets. The childminder regularly works with an assistant.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Generally appropriate hygiene procedures are in place to protect children from cross-infection, for example, the childminder washes her hands after each nappy change and children wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating, using liquid soap. However, some toys that

have been in younger children's mouths, are not cleaned, which results in other children putting the same toy into their mouth. This is not effective in preventing the risk of cross-contamination. If children are unwell or need to take medication whilst in the care of the childminder, there are written records in place to make sure that appropriate care is given. Both the childminder and her assistant hold current first aid certificates which ensures that they are able to respond appropriately in the event of an accident to a child.

Children benefit from the childminder's suitable knowledge and understanding of nutrition because she provides them with a choice of healthy snacks of fresh fruit such as grapes, strawberries, banana or apple. Parents provide all other food for the children. Children are beginning to understand about healthy eating through meaningful discussion about the reasons for having plenty of fruit and vegetables in their diet. Children are given drinks by the childminder. However, younger children are unable to access these for themselves which means that they are not able to respond to their individual feelings of thirst when they wish to. The childminder generally works with parents to ensure that all children's dietary requirements are suitably met.

Children enjoy regular opportunities to visit the local parks where they develop their physical skills on apparatus such as balancing ropes, swings and roundabouts or play games of tennis and badminton. Children enjoy playing in the garden where they are able to develop their hand and eye coordination with bats and balls or play together in a game of giant snakes and ladders. They benefit from exercise and fresh air on their daily walks to and from the local schools. Babies have space on play mats to roll and use a suitable range of resources that promote their small physical skills such as cause and effect toys. Young children practise their first steps as they 'toddle' in the hallway. This contributes to their good health and helps them to develop their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe home where risks are identified and minimised, which means that children can move around in safety. Children are well supervised and this ensures they safely develop their independence in a secure environment. They learn how to keep themselves safe both indoors and when out. For example, the childminder encourages children to cross roads safely using the 'green cross code'. Children's safety in the event of a fire is a priority. For example, smoke alarms are checked regularly to ensure that they are in good working order and the childminder has a clear emergency escape plan, which children practise regularly so that they know what to do in an emergency and are familiar with the routine. The childminder has considered extra safety features such as door jammers and the safety of the fireplace, so that young children are able to safely explore their environment.

Toys and equipment are appropriate for their age and stage of development. They are regularly checked for safety which ensures that they continue to be suitable for use by children. Some toys and resources are easily accessible to children in toy boxes stored around the room.

All required documents and procedures are in place and are well-maintained to safeguard children's welfare. For example, clear documents are in place to record any existing injuries, accidents or incidents and these are completed appropriately. The childminder and her assistant both have a good understanding of child protection issues, which are in line with local procedures, which means that children are protected and kept safe from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at the childminder's house. They are settled and have sound relationships with both the childminder and her assistant. This is effective in promoting the children's sense of belonging.

The childminder provides a variety of activities to sufficiently promote children's development. Children's mathematical development is promoted through activities such as counting the bricks in a tower as they build together and by singing nursery rhymes that contain references to numbers. Children are able to learn about the community as they walk to the shops and observe the key features such as trees and vehicles. However, children have limited opportunities to socialise with other children outside of the childminder's home due to the current organisation of the assistant's hours of work. Children have opportunities to be creative as they take part in potato printing and make cards for all occasions using a variety of art and craft materials. Younger children are encouraged in their language development as the childminder carefully repeats key words during stories, songs and rhymes. Younger children are able to independently access some toys for themselves. However, this is limited and does not always ensure that they are able to make their own independent choices about what they want to play with.

Older children who have had a busy day at school, are able to relax and watch a video or choose from a good variety of board games or art and craft activities such as making cards, model aeroplanes or drawing pictures using stencils.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are understood and met by the childminder, who gathers good information from parents to ensure these needs are met. Children have access to a suitable range of activities and resources, which enables children to learn about their differences and similarities. For example, multi-national finger puppets stimulate discussion about different cultures and the traditional foods that they eat. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude towards caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and states that she would work with parents and outside agencies to ensure that all children's individual needs are met. Children behave well and they understand what is expected of them through regular routines and clear expectations, which help them to feel secure. For example, they know to sit quietly after eating to let their food go down and follow basic house rules such as not jumping on the furniture.

The childminder develops positive relationships with parents and has daily discussions with them, which contributes to children's care and well-being and ensures their changing needs continue to be met. The childminder requests feedback from the parents regarding the service that she provides. The results of this show that parents speak well of the childminder and praise the homely environment and range of activities that she provides.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled with the childminder and her assistant. Generally, the childminder organises her days to ensure that the children's routines are followed and that older children are collected from school. However, children do not always benefit from the childminder's

organisation of the hours that her assistant works and the accessibility of resources for younger children. This limits some learning opportunities for younger children.

The required documentation and records are in place, including daily attendance records, which show clear arrival and departure times for all children and adults working with the children. This ensures that correct adult-child ratios are maintained and children receive appropriate adult support. The childminder intends to further enhance her knowledge and skills in the future by attending further training courses. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to consider the benefits of her assistant attending a first aid course, as she is occasionally left in sole charge of children. The childminder's assistant has now completed a recognised first aid course which ensures that she can respond appropriately in the event of an accident to a child in her care. The provider was also asked to continue to develop resources to reflect culture, gender and disability. The childminder now has a suitable range of resources that encourages children to have a positive attitude towards a diverse society.

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):

- ensure that hygiene procedures are consistent in order to protect children from the risk of cross-contamination
- ensure that younger children are able to respond to their individual needs with regard to freely accessing drinks
- further extend the range of resources that are independently accessible for younger children
- consider the organisation of the assistant's hours of work to further improve learning opportunities for children.

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