



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	113228
Inspection date	24 May 2005
Inspector	Sheila Collins

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and five children aged between 3 and 21 years of age. They live in a three bed roomed house in Oakley, a village on the outskirts of Basingstoke. The whole ground floor of the house is used for childminding, which includes a playroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family pets are six rabbits and fish in a tank

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five on a part time basis and five school age children some on a daily basis and others occasionally. The childminder takes to

and collects children from the local pre-school and schools.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs. She is a member of the Hampshire Cluster approved childminding network. She runs a childminding group in the community for childminders and their minded children as well as for local children and their parents. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) as well as the local childminding association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's own routines are followed by the childminder, which ensures continuity for the children. They enjoy a wide range of activities, which contribute to their physical development such as throwing balls, fixing the train track together and playing with the tunnel. The childminder has a very good understanding of the levels of support children need and children are confident to try to negotiate with each other. Their well-being and emotional development are promoted by the good relationships, which they have with the childminder, who understands their individual needs well.

Children benefit from the excellent hygiene practices used by the childminder and are learning about their own personal hygiene when they use fun soap to wash their hands independently. Children eat healthy snacks, such as fruit and the childminder provides a good range of nutritious meals which meet the children's individual dietary needs to ensure that they have a healthy diet.

The childminder has a current first aid certificate and a comprehensive understanding of the way to prevent accidents, which contributes to keeping the children healthy. The children's health needs are known to the childminder and she has an effective support system in place in case of emergencies, which includes leaving the children with a familiar adult if necessary. The childminder does not care for children when they are unwell which means that other children are not exposed to infection.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move around the rooms safely and freely. They use the space available appropriately for example, taking part in quiet activities in the lounge and messy play in the kitchen. They know the ground rules, which the childminder has put into place for their safety. Children are safe because the childminder is proactive in spotting any potential hazards and has minimised risks in the garden where work on an extension is taking place. Children's play in the park is undertaken safely.

Children access toys easily from boxes and storage within the playroom and do not become bored with toys, as the childminder rotates these. They choose from the resources, which are checked regularly by the childminder to ensure that these are safe and appropriate for their stage of development.

The childminder has a good working knowledge of child protection issues and procedures, which also contributes to the children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well, are confident and relate well to each other and adults present. They select what they would like to do from the good range of appropriate toys, which the childminder puts out to support their learning and development. They benefit from the childminder's planning that ensures a variety of activities available through out the week for them, both within the home and outside.

The children direct their own play, supported by the childminder but also respond well to new experiences and activities, which the childminder suggests to maintain their interest and stimulation. Children's interest in books is promoted by the childminder who reads stories with them, actively involving them. They learn through the wide range of activities that the childminder offers including those, which support their language development, mathematical thinking, knowledge and understanding of the world, creativity and imagination.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children know right from wrong as the childminder uses appropriate age and stage strategies for managing their behaviour. They know the rules for acceptable behaviour and the childminder talks with them so that they are aware of why any unwanted behaviour is unacceptable. Their efforts and achievements are praised well by the childminder, which promotes their confidence and self-esteem.

Children access a good range of toys and resources that promote equality of opportunity and their individual needs. They take part in activities and use resources, which promote a positive view of different cultures and abilities, which increase their awareness of the diversity of the wider world.

By working in partnership with parents, the childminder ensures that the children's individual needs are met and she uses the appropriate documentation to support this. Discussions are held daily with the parents and they use two-way communication books to ensure continuity of care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the well-organised environment, which the childminder has created for them.

Continuity of care for the children is assured through the effective use of contracts,

policies and procedures, communications books and all the required documentation needed to support the running of the childminder's business. The detailed information that the childminder and parents share about their individual child ensures consistency for the children. The childminder is meeting the needs of the children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder has enabled the children to be able to freely access toys within the playroom. She has also addressed the issue of the storage of slabs in the garden.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- develop knowledge of the Birth to Three Matters framework to further enhance the good practice offered to children under the age of three years

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