

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	117034
Inspection date	30 May 2007
Inspector	Marie Thompson
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 1999. She lives with her partner and two children aged 19 and two years old in West Reading. The whole of the downstairs of the childminder's house is used for childminding and the main bedroom for children to sleep in and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

There is currently one child on roll. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family have one dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder builds very strong relationships with the children making them feel secure. The childminder knows the children well and is responsive to their individual needs.

Children play in a clean environment where they learn to follow good hygiene practices. Children use the downstairs toilet and they are proficient in their personal care. They use a soap dispenser

and an individual towel to wash their hands which the children identify by colours. The childminder makes sure that the children have plenty of tissues available to blow their noses which are disposed of appropriately. The childminder talks to the children about hygiene and personal care at their level of understanding and the children know why it is important to wash their hands and blow their noses. This ensures that good hygiene practices are maintained. The childminder wipes the surfaces with anti-bacterial spray as part of her daily routine, which positively control the spread of germs and cross infection.

Children receive appropriate first aid, which is recorded and countersigned by parents and carers. Children are only administered medicine that has been authorised by parents and carers. Sick children are sensitively cared for by the childminder and appropriate procedures followed, which reassures and comforts children. The childminder has a sheet detailing communicable diseases which give up to date information regarding childhood illness and diseases which is shared with parents and carers increasing their awareness and ability to respond.

Parents and carers provide the children's packed lunches, snacks and drinks and the childminder makes sure that the food is stored appropriately. The children are offered additional drinks and snacks by the childminder if they want them so that they do not become thirsty or dehydrated, especially when it is hot or they have been running around. Parents and carers requests with regard to their children's dietary needs are adhered to and these are fully discussed when a new minding agreement begins. The childminder knows the children's health needs and all relevant documentation is in place, to ensure each child's individual needs are met.

The children have fantastic fun playing in the garden. They thoroughly enjoy the ample and stimulating toys in the garden such as the ball pit, Wendy House, the sand pit, cars, tent and mini lawn mower. They like to relax in the swing chairs; one of adult and one of child size and they relish having their meals and snacks sitting at the table and chairs on the decking. The children have a super time going to the park where they crawl through the tunnels and scramble up the net climb. The children get regular fresh air walking to school each day. They have ample opportunity to develop their fine motor skills from the lovely range of toys offered to them, from baby toys to art and crafts to mastering the key board and mouse skills on the computer.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of child protection issues which safeguards and promotes children's welfare. She has recently attended a course with Reading Education Centre. The childminder is able to effectively and efficiently deal with all child protection concerns and there is documented evidence to support this. This is enhanced by the leaflets that are in place such as, 'What to do if you're worried about a child being abused', the Berkshire Local Safeguarding Children Boards handbook and a Child Protection policy which are shared with the parents and carers.

Children play in a well-organised environment, where the childminder identifies all risks and minimises hazards. This allows them to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder gives priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety inside and outside the home. The childminder makes sure a visual assessment of the house is carried out in the mornings and that the children are supervised through the day whilst they are playing. There is an excellent fire evacuation procedure in place, the fire blanket is located where it can be easily accessed in an emergency and the fire drills and smoke alarms checks are meticulously recorded.

Children have easy and safe access to toys and resources which are stored in a large hessian basket at the bottom of the stairs and in the cupboard under the stairs. The toys and resources are stimulating and suitable for children's stage of development and meet safety standards. Regular checks ensure there are no broken parts that could harm a child. Children benefit from well-supervised outdoor play at the local park. Clear procedures for outings ensure children's safety at all times. The childminder makes sure the children stop, look and listen when they cross the road and hold onto the buggy. She has appropriate booster seats for her car and makes sure the seat belts are fitted securely so that the children travel safely. In the hot weather the childminder ensures the children put on sun hats and sun cream to protect them and in the winter she makes sure they wear appropriate clothes such as raincoats and wellies so that they are kept warm and dry.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children settle extremely well at the childminder's house. They relate very well to the childminder and her family and enjoy the company within the warm environment. Children enter confidently and make themselves at home. The children clearly enjoy being here and have a super time in the childminder's care. Children independently choose from an excellent range of toys which are imaginative and appeal to all. Children listen and respond to music which they clearly enjoy as they dance around the kitchen under the childminder's supervision. The children spend their time purposefully engrossed in an exciting range of activities. They have great fun making cards and puppets using pom poms and googly eyes and make some very innovative designs. Outdoor activities like going to the park to play provide a superb opportunity for children to develop their physical skills.

The children enjoy outings to Child Bill and Bounce at the River mead and occasionally walking around Reading town centre looking in the shops. Through playing all sorts of games the children develop many skills such as, co-ordination, co-operation, sharing and taking turns. Sometimes after a long busy day the children enjoy having time to relax, curl up on the sofa and watch 'Tracy Beaker' or 'Totally Doctor Who' on CBBC. They like having time to be quiet to do some colouring in the books provided or going to the toddler group where a large age range of children go during the holidays and the children can run around or socialise with children of a similar age.

Children are involved in structured and free choice activities during the day. Excellent support encourages the children to extend and develop their ideas and express their thoughts and feelings. They are very competent at tidying up after they have finished playing with toys or doing activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel respected as individuals and made to feel good about themselves through positive encouragement and support. The childminder talks to them about things that are important to them, such as their family, holidays and birthdays and sensitively talks to them about memories they recall and shares in their delight as they describe things they have done. Children have access to some activities and resources that reflect positive images of diversity and their understanding of others, such as, dolls and some very nice books, in particular, 'All kinds of

people' 'Don't call me special' 'All families are different'. However, the activities and resources that reflect and promote positive images of culture, gender, disability and ethnicity are limited.

The childminder meets the children's needs by following normal daily routines as discussed with parents and carers, which helps the children feel secure. They have time to relax as well as be active, which develops the children's independent freedom of choice. Children learn important social skills such as sharing and listening to each other. Children benefit from lots of praise, encouragement, positive comments and reassurance. They behave very well. The childminder uses appropriate strategies to manage children's behaviour such as good, calm and sensitive explanation to help the children learn right from wrong and teach them self-discipline. The childminder is a lovely role model, she is very kind, polite and sensitive and the children emulate these qualities.

There are currently no children with learning difficulties or disabilities within the childminder's care. The childminder does have a good understanding of caring for a child with learning difficulties or disabilities. She understands the importance of close liaison with parents and outside agencies to meet all the children's needs.

The childminder has an excellent relationship with the parents and carers of the children, which is friendly and supportive. Parents and carers are fully informed of her practice. The childminder has gathered information diligently regarding the children. This is maintained to a high standard and ensures the children's continued support and welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The outstanding organisation safeguards and promotes the children's welfare and care. By working in partnership with the parents and carers, the childminder ensures that she meets the children's individual needs. Discussions take place daily with the parents and carers to exchange information and share achievements and concerns. Children tell their parents and carers what they have done during their time with the childminder and enjoy taking home their art work and the things they have made. The regular informal discussion ensures continuity of care for the children. Children receive excellent adult support to help them feel secure and confident to develop and expand their learning through play.

The childminder has updated her skills by attending the relevant course in Child Protection and holds a current first aid certificate. The childminder keeps updated and informed with current childcare information and issues through information and publications from Ofsted, The Children's Information Service and Sure Start and by liaising with other childminders and her network support worker. This contributes to the consolidation of her practice.

The children feel at home and at ease with the well-organised and comfortable environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning whilst safely exploring their personal boundaries. The childminder effectively uses her policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. The childminder has all documentation available, which includes a daily record of the children's attendance. All relevant and mandatory documentation is in place and well maintained to an excellent standard. 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 ensure household members were fully vetted, improve her system for recording the children's arrival and departure times and to make sure the Area Child Protection Committee contact numbers are available.

All household members have now undergone relevant vetting procedures, and the children's arrival and departure times are recorded accurately. The childminder has attended a relevant Child Protection course and has updated the contact numbers and associated documents and policies to ensure they are available and reflect appropriate procedures for Safeguarding Children.

These measures contribute to ensuring children's health, safety and wellbeing.

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

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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):

- extend activities and resources which reflect positive images of culture, gender, disability and ethnicity

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