



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 126517
Inspection date 19 July 2005
Inspector Annie Williams

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 2000. She lives with her husband and two children aged three and six years. The whole 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding five children on a part-time basis. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a rabbit, a guinea pig and two cats.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and is a member of a local childminding group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about personal hygiene because the childminder has introduced effective practices in their routine. They know why and when to wash their hands such as after using the toilet and before snacks and meals. A sick child's policy introduced by the childminder helps to prevent the spread of infection. Hand-drying facilities are less effective in preventing the spread of infection because children share towels.

Knowledge and understanding of the children's dietary requirements helps the childminder meet the children's needs. Meals and snacks are healthy. For example, children enjoy carrot and fruit snacks as well as meals that include pasta, meat and vegetables. Regular drinks provided by the childminder keep children hydrated.

An emergency back up plan, a current first aid qualification and an easily accessible first aid kit enables the childminder to act appropriately if a child has an accident. Medicine and accident records detail information about children to keep parents informed. However, not all parents' permissions are in place. As a result, the childminder cannot be sure that she is acting according to parental wishes in the event of a child becoming ill.

Children have a positive attitude towards exercise and freely play indoors and outside. They run, climb, slide and play ball games outdoors and enjoy regular visits to the park on the way home from school. As a result, they experience regular rigorous exercise to contribute to keeping them healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The provision is secure. Effective procedures for the arrival and collection of children: the childminders sound knowledge of child protection issues; and her understanding of recommendations for sleeping babies help to protect children in her care. Children learn about the safe procedures when outside the setting. For example, children are able to describe safety rules for walking from school. Within the setting children learn how to keep themselves safe with kind but firm reminders from the childminder, such as wearing shoes when playing outdoors to protect children's feet. In addition toys and resources are clean and regularly checked so that children are able to play safely.

A written fire evacuation plan, a fire blanket and smoke alarms promotes fire safety. However, the practice of the evacuation plan with the children has not yet been established to ensure children know what to do in the event of a fire.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the care of the childminder. They readily approach adults and their peers to chat or make their needs known, because the childminder is friendly and relaxed in her approach. There is a strong emphasis on children's choice after a day at school. As a result, children are able to relax and make choices that best suit their needs and interests. For example, children may watch television, play games in the garden or join in art and craft. Playing games in the garden is a particular favourite, such as hot potato and football. Consequently, children learn to play together, co-operate and negotiate with their peers.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are content and relaxed because the childminder is friendly and calm in her approach towards them. Children learn to share and take turns within the setting through games such as hot potato. They are generally caring towards each other and learn to take care of the resident rabbit 'Pebbles'. For example, they feed him carrot and lettuce with the gentle assistance of the childminder.

Clear rules within their routine teach the children about right and wrong. Children are generally well behaved, but the childminder's occasional use of the naughty step can leave a child feeling embarrassed. As a result, methods for managing behaviour are not always positive.

Parents are informed of the childminder's service through a range of policies, with the exception of the service statement which has not yet been up dated. In addition contracts established between the childminder and parents contribute to consistency in children's care.

Children's cultures are acknowledged with the help of a child record form that details information about children's personal cultures; such as, religion, dietary requirements and children's likes and dislikes. Children learn to have positive attitudes towards others because the childminder is a positive role model. Resources reflecting positive images of ethnicity, culture and disability are limited. As a result, opportunities for children to consolidate their knowledge and understanding of the diversity of our society are not fully extended.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The routine is relaxed and organised according to children's needs. Children are able to relax, be active and enjoy drinks and snacks when they choose. Consequently, children are secure and confident in the childminder's care. The required documentation and records for the safe and efficient management of the setting are

generally maintained to a satisfactory standard, contributing towards children's care and welfare. All documentation is stored in a dedicated folder and is easily accessible to enable the childminder to access them quickly. However, not all records are confidential. For example, accident and medication records contain more than one entry on each page.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection two recommendations were made. The childminder was asked to acknowledge a wider range of festivities to further promote equality of opportunity. The childminder has obtained books with ideas of activities to promote equality of opportunity, but has not yet acknowledged a wider range of festivities to further promote equality of opportunity and continues to develop this as part of her service. The childminder was also asked to maintain a register with accurate times of arrival and departure. She has developed the register of attendance, but these are not always recorded as children arrive and depart. As result, children's attendance is sometimes recorded the day after they have attended.

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 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):

- obtain parents written permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and obtain parents written permission before administering any medication
- develop strategies for positive behaviour management
- ensure records are kept confidentially.

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:
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