



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY222975
Inspection date	04 August 2005
Inspector	Samantha Hunt
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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered for 16 years. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 16 and 13 in Caversham near Reading in Berkshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding, with toilet and sleep facilities upstairs. 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 and is currently minding three children under five all day and two child over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group and takes children to the local parks.

The childminder holds a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ3) in early years childcare and education. She is a member of the National Childminding Association

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn to become healthy through lots of regular fresh air and exercise. The childminder takes very good steps to promote children's physical well being as they go on daily walks to and from nursery, school, parks, the river and local shops. They learn to develop physical skills by having regular access to play equipment at the park and in the garden such as bats and balls, the slide and tricycle. Children confidently use equipment in the garden and run around with one another through the willow trees in the park.

Children are aware of their personal needs and confidently take themselves off to the toilet and know when they are hot or cold. They learn about good health and hygiene practice through excellent discussion with the childminder for example they talk about washing the germs away after going to the toilet. The childminder has a very high regard for children's health and well-being, she has a written sickness policy, which she shares with all parents and collates accurate medication records when administering medication to children in her care.

Children rest according to their individual need and routine; sleeping takes place in a comfortable cot or bed upstairs. The childminder has high regard for children's health and hygiene as she provides them with individual bedding, which is clean and well maintained. Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They are able to choose from a variety of regular snacks and drinks that are healthy such as milk, water, fruit and home-made cakes. The childminder ensures the meals she provides are freshly prepared and nutritious and when parents provide meals; the childminder ensures risks to children's health are kept to a minimum by storing them appropriately in the fridge.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The environment is clean, bright and well maintained. Children can freely access all areas safely as the childminder has an excellent understanding of the safety issues in her home. She takes very effective steps to ensure the children remain safe for example, checking all areas daily prior to the children arriving and setting clear boundaries through discussion with the children. Children learn to have regard for their own safety, as they know not to run indoors and to wait by the front gate when going on outings.

Children can freely access a wide variety of toys and resources, which are well cared for and age appropriate. The childminder takes very good steps to ensure that smaller items are not so accessible. This ensures younger children can self-select, but remain safe, when playing.

The childminder has a very good understanding of child protection. She holds all the required documentation and is very clear about whom to contact should she have a concern. She has a clear understanding of the appropriate measures to follow to ensure children's safety, informs parents of her policy and records existing injuries to further safeguard children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children settle very well and know their way around, making themselves at home. They are confident and very comfortable in the childminder's care and relate well to others. The childminder provides children with regular opportunities to mix with other children through weekly visits to other childminders, friends and local toddler groups.

The children are freely able to make choices and become independent as they access a very good variety of toys, games and books from the low-level shelves and boxes. Children have many opportunities throughout the day to play inside and out, both with and without support from the childminder. They initiate their own play well and are happy to request help if necessary.

Children receive excellent praise and encouragement from the childminder, which helps to extend their self-esteem and confidence further. She actively engages herself in the children's play in a very positive manner for example pretending to talk to them through the play people. This extends children's enjoyment and learning.

Children engage very comfortably in conversation with the childminder and she extends their language and thinking through very good questioning, for example, 'what will happen if we do this?' and 'which one is the biggest?' Children benefit from a well-planned daily routine that takes into account individual needs such as sleep patterns. This contributes to the children being happy and relaxed in the setting.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has a very high regard for the children's individual needs. She treats all children with equal concern, responding to their needs. Excellent partnerships with parents promote the children's welfare at all times. The childminder liaises with all parents prior to starting and on a daily basis. She identifies concerns and is proactive in discussing these with parents ensuring children's well being.

Children behave well; they are learning the difference between right and wrong, as the childminder reinforces boundaries. Children are confident to make their needs known to the childminder, who listens and responds to what the children say. Children are very confident and ask questions, for example, 'can we go to the park today?'

Children receive lots of positive praise and encouragement from the childminder; they happily talk about their home life and things that are important to them. They are very comfortable within the setting and begin to feel a sense of belonging because of the close relationship they have formed with the childminder. Children have access to a good range of toys and experiences that help them to become aware of the wider community and have respect for others.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The layout of the environment is very good and play opportunities for children are maximised. Children have space to spread out, explore, play, rest and sleep effectively and in comfort. The organisation of equipment is good and children can freely access toys and initiate their own play with ease.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate enabling her to react in an emergency to promote children's health. All legally required documentation that contributes to children's health, safety, and well-being is in place. The childminder has high regard for her working practice and takes positive steps to improve her practice through both regular discussion and feedback from parents and attending training courses with the local authority. Information is shared daily with parents, both verbal and written, and keeps them informed about the setting and their child's care. This effectively supports and contributes to the continuity of care for the children. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved health and organisation. She ensures that all records relating to accidents are acknowledged and signed by parents.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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