

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY273956
Inspection date	11 July 2007
Inspector	Miriam Sheila Brown
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 was registered in 2003. He lives with his wife, also a registered childminder, and their two children aged five and ten years. They live in a four-bedroom detached house in the Haydon Wick district of Swindon. There are shops, schools and parks within walking distance of the home. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and there are currently 11 children on roll. Most areas of the home are used for childminding with the exception of the master bedroom. There is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered for overnight care and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children develop their awareness of good hygiene and keeping themselves healthy through thorough and effective routines which support good practice. They are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times and are provided with easily accessible soap and paper towels

to facilitate this, therefore developing their independence in personal care. Discussion with children demonstrates they understand the reasons for washing hands, using sun cream and wearing sun hats outside. Nappy changing routines are organised to minimise the risk of cross infection and maintain children's privacy. The childminder has up-to-date first aid training enabling him to manage accidents appropriately. Accident, illness and medication policies provide clear information and guidelines for parents.

Children thoroughly enjoy snack and meal times. They eat well using cutlery and crockery appropriate to their age and varying stages of development. All meals are freshly prepared and planned to take good account of children's dietary requirements, likes and dislikes. Drinking water is freely accessible throughout the day in individual bottles or lidded cups. Children's knowledge of healthy eating is further enhanced by regular cooking activities, helping to prepare their snacks and opportunities to choose from a wide variety of fruits and other snack foods.

Children benefit from excellent opportunities for physical play. They use a wide range of equipment in the garden such as crawling tunnels, play houses, balls and push along toys. Regular visits to the park enable children to extend and develop their climbing and balancing skills. Inside children move confidently from one room to another and independently access toys and equipment. Throughout each day they use a range of small resources such as, jigsaws, craft tools, the computer and a chalk board, which assist very effectively in developing their small muscle control.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for within an environment where safety is a very high priority. They have an excellent awareness of safety issues and are learning about keeping themselves safe. For example, the childminder uses hired play equipment such as traffic signals, lollipop-people dressing-up clothes, and road maps, to use in the home and then practise what they have learnt, on local walks. Risks of accidental injury are minimised because the childminder is extremely thorough and vigilant. All visitors to the home are logged, as are fire drills, which are regularly practised with children to ensure they are familiar with evacuation procedures should an emergency arise. Detailed and regular risk assessments are completed for the home and garden and are available for parents to see.

Children have a wide variety of areas in which to play safely. They develop their independence as they access resources which are stored invitingly on low shelves in the conservatory and sitting room. Toys and equipment offer a wide variety of play opportunities and are appropriate to children's differing ages and stage of development. Premises are well maintained and invitingly decorated with photographs of children at play, individual paintings and models.

Children's welfare is further safeguarded and promoted through the childminder's comprehensive knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures. These are clearly documented in a detailed policy that is given to parents at the start of a childminding arrangement.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children of all ages are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They are greeted warmly by him and confidently join in with what ever is happening when they arrive, for example,

singing along to familiar nursery rhymes and joining in with the actions. Throughout each day children benefit from using a variety of areas in the home, for example, the sitting room, conservatory, dining room, kitchen for messy play, and the garden.

The childminder makes excellent use of 'Birth to three matters' guidance to help him and his wife, plan a broad range of exciting and stimulating activities to help children progress. He demonstrates a clear understanding of how this guidance compliments the next stages in their learning, and plans activities accordingly. For example, whilst helping children with jigsaws, he talks about the shapes and colours of pieces to help them identify the right piece for themselves. Whilst older children are having a story with puppets, he ensures the youngest child is happily engaged in an activity, appropriate to his stage of development and understanding. Children relate very positively to each other and play well together.

Children explore using their senses through activities such as listening, singing and dancing to music, painting and craft activities, cooking, imaginative play with dressing up, outdoor play and construction. Spontaneous activities such as going out to splash in puddles after a shower of rain and planting beans and watching them grow, helps children to learn about the world around them and provide them with a sense of wonder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are highly valued as individuals and the childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of their individual needs. Children's details are clearly documented and regularly updated with parents, helping to ensure continuity of care for all children. Parents and children are greeted warmly by the childminder each morning assisting positively with settling and separation routines. Throughout activities children are learning about their community and the wider world as they visit local places of interest, play with a wide variety of resources reflecting positive images of race, culture and disability. Through craft work, meal times, books and music, children celebrate a number of festivals during the year helping to increase their awareness of different lifestyles.

Children with additional needs are expertly assisted by the childminder who employs a range of strategies to encourage and develop their inclusion. Children are very well behaved and flourish within the clear and consistent boundaries set by the childminder and his wife. They learn about right and wrong as they follow positively expressed 'house rules' helping them to take responsibility for their own behaviour, for example, 'we are kind'. The childminder uses praise in a meaningful way and provides a strong role model for children.

The partnership with parents and carers is of an extremely high quality. Parents have clear information about the setting through the 'Parents Handbook' and are encouraged to spend time each day chatting with the childminder. Quarterly newsletters remind them about specific aspects of care and organisation. Parents views are sought regularly through detailed questionnaires and discussion with them demonstrates very strong support for all aspects of the care provided, and particularly highlight the benefits of the flexible care offered. The childminder and his wife are welcoming and friendly, and children keen to come to the setting each day. This excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom he provides. The childminder and his wife, with whom he works, are well qualified and have completed a number of training courses since registration, to support and develop their practice. Minimum ratios are met or exceeded throughout the day and support in the form of emergency cover is in place.

All documentation is of an extremely high quality. Policy and procedures are given to parents at the start of an arrangement and they are asked to sign to acknowledge they have read these. Children's details are stored appropriately to maintain confidentiality and regularly updated with parents. Records of meals, sleep, activities, accidents and medications are effectively maintained by the childminder.

Recommendations from the last inspection have been successfully addressed and clearly demonstrates the childminder's commitment to continue to provide high quality care. The childminder and his wife work well together to provide for the children in their care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that children's attendance details are completed regularly and include actual times of attendance. He also agreed to make sure the temperature of the conservatory was suitable for young children.

The childminder has effectively addressed both of these recommendations. Attendance records clearly show children's time of arrival and departure and the conservatory now has a fan which is used in warmer weather to ensure children's comfort.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 1 2004, 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:

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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