

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 134222
Inspection date 15 November 2007
Inspector Susan Victoria May

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 registered in 2000. She lives with her husband and three children aged four, six and eight years old. They live in the village of Chinnor in Oxfordshire. The whole of the premises is used for minding. There is a secure garden for outdoor play.

The childminder may care for four children and is currently minding three children on a full and part time basis. The childminder is prepared to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools. The childminder holds a recognised childcare certificate.

The family have a pet cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a growing awareness of good hygiene practice as they enjoy a clean, healthy environment in which to rest and play. The childminder increases and reinforces their understanding through routine and age appropriate explanation. For example, children

automatically their wash hands before lunch and gentle reminders ensure children wash and dry their hands after using the bathroom. The childminder holds the required documentation to accurately record all accidents and administer medication and has a valid first aid certificate in place to ensure she can deal with minor accidents effectively. However, to further protect children, consideration must be given to obtaining written parental consent for medical emergency treatment for all children.

The childminder has a sound understanding of how best to support the children's skills, develop their confidence, and provide activities to help them progress at their own rate. The childminder provides daily opportunities for regular fresh air and exercise which children enjoy and promotes their good health. Children begin to learn about their bodies as the childminder encourages them to wipe their noses, dispose of tissues properly and explains why it is important to drink more if they are feeling unwell. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs. Children develop control and co-ordination through their play; there are further opportunities to develop physical skills through playing with the equipment in the garden and at local parks.

Children's dietary needs are met because the childminder works closely with parents. The childminder records and discusses the parent's preferences regarding food and individual children's needs. This ensures the needs of the children in her care are met. Drinks are available throughout the day and all meals are served at the table to encourage social interaction and to help form the basis of future eating habits.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a warm, welcoming child friendly home where children feel safe and secure. Children enjoy their play in a safe indoor and outdoor environment where the childminder identifies and minimises risks. She provides opportunities for children to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits. For example, she regularly visits a local park, where children can be easily supervised while they safely explore. To help keep children safe on outings the childminder is contactable by mobile phone, has a first aid kit and informs parents where they are going. Written parental consent for outings is in place. To further protect children; fire safety precautions and evacuation plans are in place. Parents are informed of procedures and of whom to contact in the event of an emergency situation arising.

Children have independent access to a range of equipment and resources. The childminder carefully and skilfully monitors and supervises children's choices of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. The childminder carries out regular checks on all toys, resources and equipment and implements effective procedures to clean and maintain all toys and resources. This ensures they remain safe for the children to use.

Children are protected and safeguarded from harm whilst in her care, as the childminder has a clear understanding of her role concerning child protection. She is very aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures to follow should she have concerns. She holds all of the required paperwork to record existing injuries and incidents to protect children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder organises her home effectively to provide children with opportunities to enjoy a range of resources which they self select from the broad choice available to them. The

childminder monitors the toys to ensure the children have a variety of experiences. For example, children develop their construction skills as they set out the train/road track, show increasing concentration as they play the animal sounds lotto game and explore their imagination as they play with the small world castle. Children play well alongside each other well and show each other care and consideration. Regular outings and trips to parks, shops and local schools help children to learn about the wider world and socialise.

Children show interest in what they do and settle quickly to chosen activities. They engage with interest and at times for extended periods. For example, after snack children voluntarily join the childminder, sit with her to complete a 'house' floor puzzle, chatting all the time about the different areas of the home the puzzle depicts. Children's care, learning and play are enhanced through the childminder's understanding of the Birth to three matters framework and of older children's development towards the foundation stage. Interaction between the childminder and children is lovely, she is consistently nearby offering guidance and help to extend their play and learning when required.

The childminder and parents share daily information on the children, this helps promote an environment in which children can progress effectively.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder helps children to feel good about themselves, gain in confidence and develop a sense of worth as they explore the world around them from the secure base the childminder provides. She treats all children with kindness and care and helps them to recognise their own and others individuality. She takes time to discuss children's needs with parents taking into account medical and dietary requirements, culture, beliefs and parental preferences. This information along with pre-visits helps ensure she knows each child well. Children feel secure in her presence and make requests and ask questions about the wider world with curiosity and interest. Mini topics such as 'food from around the world' help to increase their knowledge and understanding. Children begin to develop a sense of place and learn about where they live through regular trips to local schools, groups and the park.

The childminder encourages children to behave and become aware of the house rules by reminding them of what is acceptable behaviour in an age appropriate manner. Children spontaneously say please and thank you, show respect for each other and for adults and are eager to please. They respond promptly to requests for example, to help tidy the toys away prior to lunch. The childminder listens to the children, values their comments and responds appropriately. This helps them feel valued. The childminder has a good understanding of caring for children with disabilities/learning difficulties and recognises the importance of close liaison with parents and outside agencies to ensure children are able to participate fully to reach their full potential.

Relationships with parents are good; this contributes greatly to the children's well being. The childminder discusses policies and procedures and the expectations of parents prior to the children starting to ensure they have a good indication of the care she offers. The childminder shares with parent's information about daily events and children's progress through daily verbal communication. The good relationship between parents and the childminder help provide the children with continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder recognises the importance of a secure and settled environment in which children feel confident to extend their play and learning. The children are relaxed and clearly happy and settled in the childminder's home. The childminder ensures she is on hand to offer support as the children play in the home and garden. Children benefit from the range of activities that are set out to allow the children room to play comfortably and freely in defined areas. For example, children can sit at the table to enjoy games, relax in comfy chairs for a story or use the toys and resources with adequate floor space to extend their play if they wish.

Most of the required documentation is in place and the childminder understands the importance of maintaining documentation confidentially. Some written information is available to parents about the childminder's practices, including contact details of the regulator and a complaints procedure. However, the registration certificate is not displayed where it is easily visible. Ratios are always observed and the childminder keeps an accurate record of children's attendance. 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 Area Child Protection Committee procedures and contact telephone numbers are available and to ensure children's arrival and departure times are accurately recorded. To help protect children in her care the childminder has completed safeguarding children training to update her knowledge and has all of the required contact numbers and information in place. To ensure the times of children's arrival and departure are accurately noted the childminder completes a daily register on which exact times are recorded.

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

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):

- ensure written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is requested from all parents

- ensure registration certificate is displayed where it is easily visible to parents

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