

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 116653
Inspection date 20 March 2008
Inspector Keriann Belcher

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 has been registered since February 1994. She lives with her husband and 15-year-old son in a semi-detached house in High Wycombe, close to local parks and amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, with rest facilities available upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years. She is currently caring for six children at various times.

The family have two cats, a rabbit and a dog.

The childminder attends a local carer and toddler group on a regular basis. She has a current paediatric first aid certificate and is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's good understanding of healthy eating, including the need to have drinking water accessible at all times. She provides the children with home cooked meals, such as steak pie, fresh vegetables and rice pudding for dessert. The children enjoy a wide range of fresh fruit as snacks to ensure they are not hungry.

Children remain healthy because the childminder has appropriate policies to prevent the spread of infection, such as a written sickness policy. Children play within a clean environment as the childminder cleans her home daily. Children receive appropriate care if they have minor accidents as the childminder has a current first aid certificate. She maintains records of accidents and any medication administered. The necessary parental consents have been obtained.

Children have opportunities to develop their physical skills, as the childminder takes them on frequent outings, for example, on walks to pick strawberries. When the weather is inclement, she ensures the children have opportunities to run, climb and balance at toddler groups and activity centres.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's care needs are met as suitable equipment is readily available, for example, a travel cot, potty and buggy. The space used for childminding is organised well, with room for children to play on the floor. Toys and play materials are in good condition, meaning that children can use them safely.

The childminder minimises potential hazards to children. Smoke alarms and a fire blanket are fitted according to the manufacturer's instructions. Plans are in place to evacuate children safely in the event of an emergency.

Children's welfare is protected, as the childminder has a adequate knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and understands the procedures to follow if she has any concerns about a child. However, she does not have a copy of the booklet 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused'.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have lots of fun at the setting. They play enthusiastically with a good range of toys and resources. For example, they are developing good hand-to-eye coordination as they complete puzzles or tap shapes into a peg board. Children are relaxed within the childminder's care. They laugh as they experiment with language, making up stories about crocodiles, alligators and dinosaurs.

Children develop their social skills as they interact with other minded children at toddler groups. Children are making good progress in all areas of their development as the childminder has a good understanding of how children learn.

Older children are helped to complete their homework if this is required or have the freedom to choose activities from the wide range available. During the school holidays, the childminder plans a fun and interesting programme of activities, such as sewing, painting, cooking or trips out on the bus.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected for their individuality. The childminder finds out about the children's routines and their lifestyle at home. Children are beginning to learn anti-discriminatory attitudes from the childminder, as she promotes a positive view of the world we live in. The children learn about various religious festivals, such as Chinese New Year, when they attend toddler groups. Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are welcome in the childminder's home as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare.

Children behave well in the childminder's care. Their self-esteem is promoted because the childminder praises them as they play. Children learn a sense of responsibility as they are encouraged to help tidy toys away.

Children benefit from the childminder's positive partnership with parents, which ensures children's individual needs are met. The childminder provides parents with detailed information about her service. During the inspection, parents commented positively about the care their children receive from the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's desire to increase her skills and knowledge of childcare. She has attended relevant training to improve her knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework and the new Early Years Foundation Stage. Children are well cared for and supported, as the childminder makes good use of space to meet children's individual needs.

The childminder has all the required documentation in place. Policies and procedures are used effectively and contribute to children's safety and welfare. Documentation is stored securely and confidentially.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to ensure the first aid box is easily accessible. The first aid box is readily accessible in the kitchen; this ensures that the childminder can access the supplies quickly in the event of an emergency.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 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:

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):

- obtain the Government booklet 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused'.

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