

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	107871
Inspection date	05 September 2007
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 a registered childminder since 1994. She lives with her husband and their two children aged 13 and 17 years, in a residential area of Chalfont St. Peter. The ground floor and the master bedroom of the home are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. Currently she is minding eight children under eight years.

The childminder walks and drives children to and from local schools. The family have two cats.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children spend their day in a clean environment as the childminder uses good hygiene routines throughout her home. For example, she regularly cleans the surfaces and areas used by the children with bleach and disinfectant. She has a good nappy changing routine, ensuring all

dirty nappies are disposed of effectively. Children are developing their awareness of good hygiene routines as they are encouraged to wash their hands after using the bathroom and have individual towels to dry their hands.

Children receive medication in accordance with their parent's written consent. The childminder stores all medication securely and makes a record of any medication she administers to a child. Children receive suitable treatment when they have an accident because the childminder has a relevant first aid qualification and has a fully stocked first aid kit readily available. She records all accidents and shares the information with the parents. However, this is not always completed confidentially which compromises children's privacy. Children are protected from the spread of cross infection as the childminder has a policy to exclude children who are infectious.

The children enjoy healthy, nutritious meals and snacks, which the childminder safely stores, prepares, cooks and serves such as pasta, vegetables and yogurts. The children's individual dietary needs are included in the information gathered from parents. The childminder uses this information to plan the children's meals taking into account their individual allergies, likes and dislikes. The children have regular access to drinks throughout the day. Younger children have a beaker of water or juice readily accessible, enabling them to choose when to have a drink.

The children have access to toys and equipment which help them develop their physical skills. For example, children develop their gross motor skills as they play with the slide or play in the garden. Children enjoy going on regular outings with the childminder, such as visits to the local park or farm.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are settled and play happily within the welcoming, child friendly environment of the childminder's home. They are familiar with the available resources and freely request activities, for example, painting. Children sit at child sized furniture to colour and draw or complete puzzles.

Children are kept safe as a result of the childminder's good awareness of health and safety. She takes steps to eliminate risk of injury or hazard, for example smoke alarms are fitted on all floors and regularly checked and a fire blanket is also located in the kitchen area. Children are further protected because the childminder has devised an evacuation procedure, which is practiced with the children to ensure they know what to do in the event of a fire. The garden slide is not securely fitted into the ground. However, the childminder supervises the children very closely to ensure their safety when using the slide.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder understands her roles and responsibilities with regard to child protection and is proactive in seeking additional training to further her knowledge of this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are progressing well, because the childminder supports them effectively. She engages them in purposeful and stimulating activities that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. For example, children enjoy cooking and art and craft activities. The children have great fun spreading paint on the paper using a variety of tools such as brushes or sponges.

Their speech and language development is extended as the childminder asks the children about the colours of the paint they are using and talks to them about the art work they have produced.

The childminder promotes children's emotional development well, hugs and smiles are common between her and the children. They are happy and settled in her care, approaching her for reassurance when unfamiliar adults are present. The childminder has very good nurturing skills. For example, the childminder holds babies whilst they have their milk before settling the baby to play contentedly in his chair.

Children benefit from visits to local resources such as, picnic's or trips to the park with other childminders giving opportunities for children to socialise and play together in a larger group.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are confident and sociable and respond well to the childminder who treats them all with equal concern. To help children to learn about equality and to learn to value others, they use a wide range of resources that reflect the diverse society in which we live such as books, dolls and celebrating a wide range of festivals.

Children have good self-esteem as they receive praise and encouragement as they play. They have good relationships with the childminder who they readily turn to for support and cuddles. The childminder has appropriate policies to ensure the inclusion of all children within her care.

The childminder is experienced at caring for children of varying ages. She uses suitable strategies to manage behaviour such as using distraction with younger children or giving appropriate explanations to an older child.

The childminder develops and maintains good relationships with parents; she follows their guidance to achieve individual care routines for children. She communicates effectively with them about their children's activities; this supports continuity of care for individual children. To keep parents up to date, the childminder shares verbal and written information with them daily.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her practice well to ensure children have opportunities to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve and make a positive contribution. Children develop their skills through access to a wide range of resources and activities both inside and outside the home. Overall, the childminder takes steps to minimise the risk of hazards to children. However, some of the garden equipment is not securely fixed into the ground which compromises children's safety.

The childminder is committed to maintaining high standards. She is proactive in attending training to continually further her knowledge and skills in order to further improve her already very good practice. She maintains a good range of detailed information to support her practice which she shares with parents. However, some information is not recorded to protect children's confidentiality.

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 update her policy with regard to the use of sunscreen. She has obtained written consent and guidance from parents to administer sunscreen, which ensures children are protected from the effects of sunlight.

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 information is recorded to maintain confidentiality
- ensure the play equipment in the garden is safe and secure.

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