

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY350018
Inspection date	04 October 2007
Inspector	Judith, Mary Butler
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 was registered in 2007. She lives with her partner and child aged three years. The family live in Bracknell, Berkshire. The whole of the home is used for childminding purposes, with a bedroom for rests and playroom on the first floor.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children and is currently minding five children on a full and part time basis. Local facilities are within walking distance, including shops, parks, schools and pre-schools.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean environment because the childminder has good procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection. These include, wearing gloves when changing nappies and wiping the changing mat after it has been used. Children are developing their independence skills and are able to wash their hands before snacks, meals and after using the toilet. The childminder offers reminders to children about how important this is. She helps younger children

in drying their hands to prevent them from becoming sore. The childminder ensures parents are aware that children can not attend if they are unwell. She has all of the required documentation to record accidents and the administration of medication. Parents are requested to countersign each report and receive a copy of completed paperwork. This ensures the health of children in her care.

The childminder does not currently use her garden for childminding purposes but ensures children have opportunities for exercise whilst in her care. They undertake daily walks to and from school and also access local parks, toddler groups and soft play centres. Whilst in the park the childminder ensures that children use the play equipment safely and have opportunities to climb, swing and run freely.

Children enjoy a range of healthy and nutritious food while in the care of the childminder. Children sit with the childminder when eating their food and this gives them the opportunity to chat about their day. Children are encouraged to eat and are praised for their efforts by the childminder who works closely with parents to provide food in accordance to their wishes. Individual children's dietary requirements are recorded and adhered to at all times. Children have access to drinks throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are warm and welcoming. The childminder displays children's art work in the kitchen and this helps children to feel valued and welcome in the home. Children move freely around all areas of the home identified for their use. They choose the toys and resources they wish to use from the good range stored on shelving in the lounge and play room. Children are able to self select the toys they wish to play with. The childminder has a good awareness of the individual play preferences of the children in her care and provides resources to suit these. Children receive individual time and attention when in the care of the childminder. Regular checks and cleaning procedures ensure that the toys and equipment are in good repair and suitable for the needs of the children in her care.

The childminder undertakes daily safety checks to minimize risks to children. However, the property is not always secure to prevent children leaving unattended and cleaning materials are not all stored safely to ensure children can not access them. Children remain safe when on outings or travelling in the car because the childminder talks to them about road safety and has age and stage appropriate car seats.

The childminder has a clear understand of the signs and symptoms of child abuse. All of the required documentation to record and refer concerns is in place. This ensures children's welfare at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children receive individual support and attention from the childminder who knows the children well. Good relationships are in place between the childminder and the children. They talk to each other about what they are doing and events that have happened in their personal life. Children are confident in their surroundings and freely choose and select the toys and equipment they wish to play with. The childminder is aware of the individual play preferences of the children in her care. She provides resources to suit these, for example, puzzles, dressing up and

role play for one child. She sits with the children and assists them if required, such as making suggestions about where pieces of the puzzle may fit. The childminder plans activities and outings to suit the individual needs of the children. She is very aware that older children may need a quiet time following their day at school.

Children enjoy a range of outings when on the care of the childminder. These include daily walks to and from school, outings to soft play centres, parks and parent and carer groups.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of the individual children in her care. She welcomes all children into her home and values them as individuals. The children benefit from the relationships in place between the parents and the childminder. They share information daily about the children and this enables children to feel safe and comfortable in their environment. Parents are kept informed about the activities their child has been involved in through this daily verbal exchange. They receive useful information about the childminder's methods and policies, including information about how to contact Ofsted.

Children have opportunities to go on outings where they discover the world around them and meet different people. They have access to a variety of resources that reflect the diverse society while in the childminder's home. These include books, small world toys and role play.

The childminder has established house rules and she shares these with parents and children. This ensures a consistent approach to behaviour management and enables children to feel secure in their environment. Children are aware of the boundaries through gentle reminders from the childminder. The childminder uses praise and encouragement constantly through the day and this helps children to build their self esteem and confidence. Children are well behaved, they share the toys and resources and show co-operation in their play, for example, working together to place the cushions in the tent to make a den. Good relationships are in place between the children and the childminder and children are beginning to foster friendships with their peers.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the effective use of the available space within the home. They move freely around all areas identified for their use. Children access a range of activities, toys and resources and have opportunities for quiet and active times within their daily routines. The childminder has a good knowledge of the individual children in her care and ensures they have their personal needs met. Children gain from the good exchange of information that takes place between the parents and the childminder.

The childminder has a businesslike approach to childminding and holds all of the required documentation to support the safety, health and welfare of children in her care. However, not all documentation is individual to each child and therefore confidentiality is not always maintained. The childminder keeps accurate records of the days and times of children's attendance. Parents are requested to countersign these records and all other documents such as accident reports. This ensures they are fully aware of any incidents that may have happened to their child. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 requested 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 all cleaning materials are stored safely
- ensure the premises are secure and children can not leave unaccompanied
- ensure all documentation is stored confidentially and is individual to each child.

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