

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	222804
Inspection date	10 January 2008
Inspector	Jean Goodrick
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 December 1997. She lives with her family, which includes grown-up children, in a village outside Peterborough. She uses mainly the downstairs area of her home for childminding and there is an enclosed outdoor play area.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, only three of whom may be under five years of age. When working with an assistant the childminder may care for six children under five years of age. The childminder's daughter is currently working as her assistant for three days a week. The childminder is currently minding six children under five years. She walks to and from local schools. The family has three cats.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and she has a childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's good knowledge and understanding of childhood nutrition. Meals are freshly cooked and include vegetables and fruit. Menus are available to parents. Meals and snacks are pleasant social occasions when children develop their social skills. Drinks are regularly offered to the children.

Children enjoy a good range of energetic physical activities which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. The childminder ensures that children have plenty of fresh air on local walks and on outings. They develop their physical skills, for example they use the play equipment in the garden and local parks. Children rest and sleep according to their individual routines.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through regular daily routines. They wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. The childminder and her assistant act as good role models, cleaning the table before children have their snack. The childminder also keeps the environment clean and tidy so that cross-infection is minimised. If the children need to take any medicines or become unwell whilst they are in the care of the childminder, up to date records are in place to make sure that they are well cared for. The childminder has a current first aid certificate so that she is confident to take action for the welfare of the children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure environment where risks are minimised and they move around safely under the childminder's constant supervision. The childminder helps children learn how to keep themselves safe indoors and outside. They learn about road safety on local walks. Smoke alarms are tested regularly and the childminder has an accessible fire blanket in the kitchen. Children's welfare in an emergency is a priority and the childminder carries relevant information when she is outside the home.

Children play with a good range of age-appropriate toys, equipment and resources. These are well organised in shelves and boxes and children have some opportunities to make their own choices. Resources are checked regularly for safety and hygiene.

Children are well protected because the childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibilities. However, she does not have the necessary information available about procedures to be followed if she has any concerns about the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and establish warm and affectionate relationships with her. They are settled and confident and they have consistent daily routines which help them to feel secure. The childminder and her assistant respond to the children's interests with warmth and enthusiasm. They plan a wide range of activities which help to promote all areas of children's development. The childminder sits with the children as they have fun cutting the play dough into shapes and rolling sausages. They talk about different colours and learn to

count in everyday routines. The childminder sits on the floor and joins in the children's games and children snuggle in for stories and rhymes. Children develop their language skills and vocabulary as the childminder listens and responds respectfully.

The childminder has a good understanding of child development and uses the 'Birth to three matters' framework as a reference tool which enables her to offer a varied range of activities for children which are stimulating and fun. She attends training on a regular basis so that she keeps up to date with current childcare practice. Babies and toddlers receive warm, sensitive personal care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed and included in the provision and they are valued as individuals. The childminder gets to know children and their families well so that children have a good sense of belonging. She has some resources and activities which reflect a diverse society including books such as 'Children Just Like Me' and she helps children to learn about their differences and similarities. Children learn about the wider world on local outings. The childminder is not currently caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities but she is aware of the need to work in partnership with parents and other agencies.

Children behave well. The childminder has clear consistent rules and she helps children understand expectations of their behaviour according to their age and understanding. She gives plenty of praise and encourages children to play together cooperatively, for example in their imaginative games.

The childminder has good partnerships with parents. Questionnaires show that they are happy with the care their children receive. The childminder has a clear information pack which is shown to parents at the beginning of their arrangement. She exchanges information with parents on a daily basis and keeps a daily diary of children's routines. The childminder supports families flexibly in the transition from home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the fact that the childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of child development and of her legal duties. She is well qualified and experienced and open to new learning. The childminder's assistant also attends relevant training. Records are kept up to date so that children receive good continuity of care. The childminder has a professional framework of policies and procedures which contribute to children's health and safety. She ensures that children are never left with anyone who has not been vetted. Confidentiality is respected. Information is shared with parents so they know about the provision and the care their children receive.

The childminder uses time, space, including outdoor space, and resources effectively to provide a stimulating and caring environment for children. Children benefit from consistent routines and sensitive support so that they feel secure and have a sense of belonging. They have time to rest and time to be active.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was agreed that the register would include the times that individual children arrived and departed. Organisation has improved as it is now clear from the attendance register which hours individual children are at the childminder's home. It was also agreed that the children would have more resources and activities which help them to understand their differences and similarities. The childminder has extended her range of activities and resources so that children have more opportunities to learn about a diverse society.

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):

- obtain a copy of 'What to do if you think a child is being abused' and develop understanding of Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

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