

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	105132
Inspection date	19 July 2007
Inspector	Sarah Catherine Munn

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 1991. She lives with her husband and two children aged 14 and 17 years in the town of Luton in Bedfordshire.

The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding four children, all of whom attend on various days throughout the week. The childminder walks to school to take and collect children and takes children to the local park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are able to learn the importance of good personal hygiene from an early age, through well-organised routines, practice, through discussion and good examples that the childminder sets. For example, she encourages children to wash their hands after using the toilet, playing

outside and before meals. The children are protected from infection because the childminder is well informed about their health and employs suitable methods to prevent infections spreading, such as working with parents when implementing her sick child policy, having good nappy changing procedures and ensuring the cleanliness of the home, toys and equipment. Information is shared with parents relating to any aspect of their child's health. Written consent has been obtained from parents to seek emergency treatment or advice and sound procedures are in place for recording children's accidents and administering medication, parents countersign each entry. This impacts positively on the children's health and well-being. A first aid certificate is up-to-date and enables the childminder to administer appropriate care when required.

Children's meals are provided by their parents. The childminder stores food correctly in the fridge to ensure their meals stay fresh. They enjoy occasional snacks provided by the childminder who ensures that individual dietary requirements are respected following discussion with their parents. Children sit together at the table to eat which promotes meal times as social occasions and younger children's independence skills are encouraged as they try to feed themselves. Children do not become thirsty because they have access to drinks at all times.

Children enjoy an appropriate range of physical activities which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Their health and development is promoted through their participation in a variety of physical activities, such as walking to drop off and pick up other children from the school, visits to the park, woods and playing outside with a variety of toys. Children's hand and eye coordination and dexterity is developing as they are introduced to small world figures, jigsaws and creative activities, such as painting, cutting and sticking. Children have access to varied activities and excellent levels of support which give them confidence to try out new skills, set their own limits and know when to ask for help. The childminder supports the children and is on hand to guide their play. Children are able to fully participate in the activities because the childminder uses her experience and knowledge of child development to adapt these to a suitable level.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder safeguards children's welfare and has an excellent awareness of safety. An informal visual risk assessment is carried out daily to identify any risks and to take action to minimise them. Children are made to feel welcome and are able to move around the home and garden to explore and play in a safe, controlled environment. They have access to a broad range of developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. These are selected according to the children's age and ability to ensure they gain maximum benefit from them. All of the required documents and consents are in place to support the safety of the children.

Children actively learn to keep themselves safe because the childminder has clear rules and routines in order to maintain their safety both inside and outside the home. For example, they are aware of the dangers of fire and take part in emergency evacuation regularly so that they know what to do to stay free from harm in the event of a fire. They learn about the reasons to pick up after themselves to keep things safe for all children playing. Supervision is of a high standard. Car safety is taught as children have appropriate sized car seats and restraints. The children and childminder have open discussions about road safety when out walking and how to keep themselves safe when away from the childminder's home. They use appropriate procedures to ensure they cross the road correctly and stay alert as they cross.

The childminder has rigorous procedures in place for the safe collection of children. Parents inform her if the arrangements change at anytime. Children are well protected from possible

abuse or neglect. The childminder is attentive to her responsibility to protect the children in her care and has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms to look for along with the procedures to follow if she had any concerns. A written procedure is in place and all other supporting documents are in place to reinforce her practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very well settled and happy at the childminder's home. They are secure and confident with themselves and the childminder. When children are together they are encouraged to share and take turns with the toys. They are given good quality attention and they respond to the childminder positively. Younger children's language development is encouraged as they listen and respond to sounds, use body language and facial expressions to indicate their needs and feelings. For example, whilst playing with the jibber jabber toy the children's faces light up with a smile when it is shaken to make a noise. The childminder encourages them to reach out and shake it themselves. This enables them to make good progress in their personal, social and emotional development. Children are stimulated and able to choose from a wide variety of toys and equipment. These include music, creative work, outings, stories and imaginative play, such as imitate in role play going to the hairdressers, being a doctor and playing in the kitchen making tea. The childminder is skilled in listening to the children and introducing new language within these situations.

Suitably challenging and fun activities are available for all children and with the childminder's knowledge she is able to adapt these to suit children's individual needs. The childminder arranges outings to the park, various museums, woods and the farm where children benefit from new experiences and can explore new areas of interest, particularly exploring their physical capabilities and discovering nature whilst learning about the wider world and enabling them to get fresh air. The childminder is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' but has not yet started to put it into practice. She is adept at understanding the children's needs in order to help them grow and extend their development. Through discussion it was identified and the childminder agreed to extend her current practice by demonstrating that play opportunities are planned. This would enhance her practice and the children would benefit from having access to a wider and more challenging variety of activities. Children's self-esteem and confidence is growing through the consistent support and meaningful praise offered by the childminder.

Children have warm relationships with the childminder. Children approach her for physical comfort and reassurance which contributes to their sense of belonging and well-being. They have opportunities to think for themselves, express their ideas and interact with others. Children's learning and development is extended by the childminder's constant awareness and knowledge of how children learn through play. She clearly knows the children well as she deciphers gestures and language, thus avoiding any child becoming frustrated or despondent. Children respond happily to the childminder, gaining confidence to let her leave the room and continue their play. The childminder has an excellent knowledge of them as individuals and demonstrates genuine pleasure in their company.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children develop a sensitive awareness of diversity and an understanding of the needs of others. This is achieved through a range of activities and resources which promote a positive outlook

of the wider world. Books are readily available and children enjoy discovering the world around them. Children accept each other as individuals with the childminder setting an excellent example by valuing and respecting each child. Children's needs are met in a sympathetic manner through her open, honest and effective communication with parents and children. Activities are adapted to meet the needs of all children and a sensitive approach ensures children can play without fear of discrimination and that they can be fully involved. The childminder knows the children very well and is responsive to their individual needs. For example, if a child needs extra reassurance or cuddles this is happily provided and children respond positively knowing they can climb up for a cuddle at any time.

Expectations and realistic boundaries are in place and this impacts positively on the children's behaviour. For example, children know not to jump on the furniture or run inside. Children respond well to the childminder and the high level of support and consistent strategies help them understand what behaviour is acceptable. Their confidence and self-esteem is developed by the praise and encouragement received from the childminder who knows the children well. This enables her to have realistic expectations to promote the children's sense of belonging. Children play happily and there are smiles, cuddles and other unspoken communication which confirms the happy and relaxed environment they have created between them.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children's needs are met through successful organisation and communication with parents. Space and equipment is prepared so that children can access resources easily and independently. This enables them to self-select their activities and play safely. Children benefit from routines which make them feel secure and relaxed. Children play, eat, sleep and rest as they need to. The childminder arranges her time well to ensure children's needs are met and they receive good levels of attention.

Documentation is stored securely and information shared appropriately with parents this contributes to the trusting relationships developed between them and impacts on the children's feelings of security. Some written policies and procedures are in place to help keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. The childminder has followed appropriate procedures to ensure that all members of the household are vetted and suitable.

The childminder has a professional yet caring and sensitive approach to her practice which is clearly demonstrated in her practice. These ensure each child's potential is recognised and activities support and challenge each child. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to complete the following actions: to provide evidence that car insurance is in place and to keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children.

Since the last inspection the childminder has put in place the relevant documentation for her to transport children in her car and sound procedures are in place for administering medication to children, parents countersign the entry, this impacts positively on the children's health and well-being.

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):

- develop planning and the provision of activities which will enhance younger children's developmental progress by using an approach in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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