

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	105384
Inspection date	17 July 2007
Inspector	Anne Jeanette Faithfull

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 2000. She lives with her husband and three children aged 18, 17 and 10 years in Slough, Berkshire. The whole of the ground floor of childminder's house is 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, and is currently minding six children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to the local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to the local library and park. The family has a pet rabbit and guinea pig.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, well maintained home. They are beginning to gain a good understanding of hygiene and become increasingly independent in their personal care, as the childminder offers support and guidance when required. Children learn to develop a healthy lifestyle through daily physical activities, for instance, playing on the outdoor equipment and marching around the room whilst singing to 'The Grand Old Duke of York'. Children enjoy fresh

air as they go for walks each day, to the park or river to feed the ducks and swans. The childminder encourages children's fine motor skills by providing them with different opportunities, for example, threading boards, encouraging the children to put the thread through the hole and to pull out the other side.

The childminder holds all of the required documentation to record all accidents and administration of medication. Accidents are dealt with appropriately, as the childminder holds a relevant first aid certificate and has a good understanding of how to deal with minor accidents. She is aware of any specific health or medical issues relating to the children in her care and liaises with the parents to meet these. This promotes the children's well-being at all times.

The childminder has a sound understanding of healthy eating. She provides a range of home cooked lunches for the children which always include fresh vegetables and fruit, for example, pasta, sausages and sweetcorn. The childminder has a good knowledge of individual children's likes and dislikes, and encourages them to try new food and different vegetables. Drinks are readily available and accessible; children are aware which drink is theirs as they each have a different coloured beaker, this further helps to prevent cross infection.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and family environment. Risks of accidental injury are minimised because the childminder is vigilant and has procedures in place, to ensure children can play in a safe and secure environment. Children are becoming aware of their own safety and safety issues. For example, she reminds the children not to dance on the furniture, and not to touch the sharpened end of a pencil as it is very sharp and could hurt them. The childminder has a range of policies and procedures in place to ensure the on-going safety of the children in her care, including a fire evacuation procedure which she practises with the children on a regular basis, however, this is not recorded to ensure any problems or concerns are highlighted and addressed at the next practice.

Children have easy and safe access to toys and equipment both indoors and in the garden, all are stored in low level- boxes. All resources are stimulating and suitable for the children's stage of development and meet safety standards. Regular checks ensure there are no broken parts that could harm a child. The floor space is utilised very well to provide a large play area for floor puzzles and games, whilst a low level table and chairs provides an opportunity for table top activities, for example, drawing and colouring.

The childminder's clear awareness of child protection procedures promotes the children's safety. She is aware of the signs and symptoms and the action she would take if concerned about a child in her care. All existing injuries are recorded and discussed with the parents. She informs the parents of her responsibilities regarding child protection issues and provides them with a copy of the local child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are secure and confident in the childminder's home; they confidently approach visitors and show them the toys they are playing with and engage them in their play. The childminder is very involved with the children offering help guidance and support when required, for example, helping the children to complete a large floor puzzle. The childminder encourages the children

to begin to make sounds by asking them to make the noises of the animals on the puzzle, such as hooting like an owl. Children's imaginative play is promoted well, as the childminder provides a range of activities and resources for the children to use, for example, a mobile phone so they can pretend to phone up their parents and talk to them. The childminder praises children's efforts when completing individual puzzles and tells them they have done well. This positive encouragement ensures that children feel valued and motivated.

The children occupy themselves happily as the childminder provides a variety of appealing toys, books and activities. She sits with the children and points to items in the book, encouraging the children to begin to name them and writes the children's names on their drawings to encourage the children to begin to recognise and write their own names. Children develop well because the childminder has a good knowledge of child development; ensuring children are making good progress. She has regard to the Birth to three matters framework, and is aware to provide suitable activities and experiences for the children to learn, socialise and explore, for example, attending mother and toddler groups, looking at the family pets outside and talking about them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued, respected as individuals and treated with equal concern. Their knowledge and understanding of other cultures and ways of life is promoted, through the childminder's positive outlook and approach. The childminder provides a range of resources such as saris, dolls and books to further promote their understanding of different cultures. Through visits to parks, shops and schools, children learn about the local community.

Children are learning to behave appropriately. Children are becoming aware of the boundaries in place. They play happily alongside each other sharing toys and resources. Children are also developing good self-esteem. They receive constant praise, encouragement and cuddles from the childminder. The childminder has some experience of looking after children with learning difficulties/disabilities, she is very aware to meet their individual needs and work with outside agencies if required, to gain further information to help her meet the child's individual needs.

The childminder promotes positive relationships with parents and works very well with them to meet the needs of children appropriately. Parents are provided with a 'parent starter pack' which contains information about all of the childminder's written policies and procedures, however this does not contain the contact number and address of Ofsted. The childminder works closely with parents to exchange information regarding children's individual needs and progress. All parents receive an informative written diary in which they can also write comments about their child's progress at home and any other relevant information.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's needs are met effectively through the good use of well-organised space and resources. Children feel at home in the relaxed and homely environment, where they can move around freely and safely. Children receive a high level of support and interaction from the childminder, who knows each child well. Children's welfare and enjoyment is promoted by flexible planning taking into account daily routines including rest and sleep times.

The childminder ensures all regulatory documentation is in place, with all relevant permissions obtained from parents. This promotes children's health, safety and welfare. All documentation is shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service she provides and their child's progress. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection four recommendations were made. These were to ensure all occupants of the property had completed relevant checks, to encourage children to wash their hands before meals, to have child protection procedures available and to provide a safety harness when children are using the high chairs. These recommendations have now all been addressed and as a result further promotes children's safety and welfare.

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):

- further improve the fire evacuation procedures by recording the fire drills practised with the children
- inform parents of the contact number and address of Ofsted

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