

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY258644
Inspection date	18 September 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 2002. She lives with her husband and two children aged 10 and six years in Earley, Berkshire. The whole of the ground floor of the 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 five children at any one time and she is currently minding two children, one on a part time basis and the other attends full time. 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 childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to understand simple good health and hygiene practices, for example, washing their hands before mealtimes. Good procedures are in place for changing nappies, for instance, each child has their own changing mat and the childminder wears gloves when changing nappies, ensuring the risk of cross infection is minimised. The childminder has completed first

aid training, enabling her to manage effectively any accidents should they occur, and written parental permission for seeking emergency treatment is in place to further protect the children. The childminder considers the individual routines of the children and they are able to rest and sleep according to their needs. She has a clear understanding of the development of young children and promotes children's care effectively and they cannot fail to thrive and develop in her care

Parents provide children's meals and the childminder has a clear understanding of storing and heating up food safely. The childminder ensures children can access a drink from their beakers when they require so they do not become de-hydrated. Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their good health because they are encouraged to be out in the fresh air and enjoy physical activities each day, for example, walking to and from school each day. The childminder effectively supports younger children's physical development as she supports them as they are beginning to learn how to walk around the rooms and furniture. Older children receive support to help them balance on a skateboard in the garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, welcoming and family orientated environment where they are secure and can play safely, for example, the childminder has made sure the small water feature in the garden cannot be accessed by the children and has covered over the fire hearth. A wide range of toys are readily accessible for the children to choose from. The childminder has good procedures in place to ensure all toys are safe and appropriate for the ages of the children attending, for example, removing small items so young children do not put them in their mouth.

The childminder uses the daily walk to and from school to inform children of road safety issues, for example, looking left and right before they cross the road. Children also learn about fire safety as the childminder has a fire evacuation plan in place which she practises with the children to ensure they are aware of the steps to take and has all the appropriate fire safety equipment in place.

Children are safeguarded from harm as the childminder has a clear understanding of signs and symptoms of abuse and her role in protecting children. She has recently attended a refresher course on child protection to ensure she has the latest up to date contact numbers and the local child protection procedures. This further promotes the welfare of the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children relate very well to the childminder as she is confident and natural with young children. They readily approach her for cuddles. Interaction between the childminder and the children is good; she is consistently nearby offering guidance to help extend their play and learning. The childminder provides the children with a range of interesting and different activities, for example, letting them help her to wash the family car.

The childminder is very aware of each child's interests and favourite toys and ensures these are readily available to the children for example, 'Bob the builder' is a favourite at the moment so she provides a range of books relating to 'Bob the builder' for the children to look at and they enjoy humming the theme tune as they look at the book with her.

The childminder encourages the children's early communication development by asking the child to begin to name the farm animals they are playing with and to repeat the sound they make. Children are encouraged to begin to count as the childminder counts their fingers and toes with them and they count different objects when out, for example, how many ducks they can see on the lake.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the calm and stimulating atmosphere. They are respected as individuals and the childminder has a good understanding about the needs of the children in her care and consistently meets these. Young children are beginning to show care and concern for each other and are beginning to play together, for example, playing peek-a-boo. The young children are well behaved as the childminder uses her experience and the information gained from attending a behaviour management course to put in place appropriate strategies to deal with any behaviour issues. All strategies in place are shared with the parents and are suitable for the age and development of the children attending. The childminder continually praises children for their efforts and achievements; this positive approach further promotes children's self-esteem.

The childminder develops children's understanding of the local community and the world around them, through activities and outings for example, making cards and red envelopes for Chinese New Year and feeding the ducks in the local park. She provides a range of suitable resources to reflect diversity and disability, such as play people in wheelchairs and on crutches.

Parents comment on the excellent service she provides, the care she shows to their child and how their child enjoys coming to her home. Information regarding activities and food intake are verbally shared with parents each day. Parents complete all required paperwork before their child starts and are informed of the childminder's procedures she has in place. However, the childminder is not aware of new requirements of the complaints policy. As a result, parents are not fully informed of the steps to follow if they have a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's needs are met effectively through the good use of space and resources. Children receive a high level of support from the childminder and are relaxed in the homely environment. The childminder is committed to further her child care knowledge and attends training courses in order to keep up to date with current child care practice.

The childminder understands the importance of maintaining documentation in a confidential manner and all regulatory documentation is in place. This promotes children's health, safety and welfare. Parents are informed of the childminder's practices verbally prior to their child starting. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two recommendations were given these were to record children's attendance and seek consent for emergency medical treatment from parents. Children's attendance is now recorded and written consent has been obtained from parents for the

childminder to seek emergency medical treatment if required. These procedures further promote the care and the welfare of the children in her care.

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 the complaints procedure is in line with new requirements and guidance

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