

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	207514
Inspection date	12 December 2007
Inspector	Georgina Walker
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 1986. She lives with her husband and adult son. The whole of the ground floor and two bedrooms upstairs in the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder walks to the local schools and playgroup to take and collect children.

She takes children to the library and local park.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding six children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. Four under five attend during the day and two over five before and/or after school. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and safety is generally promoted. However, the childminder inconsistently follows appropriate procedures when dealing with minor accidents as incomplete details are recorded. Existing injuries a child arrives with are not recorded or signed by parents to assist in safeguarding children. Written consent to administer medication is given as required. A first aid box is available and contents are suitable to effectively meet the needs of the children. Written consent to seek emergency medical advice and treatment is in place to ensure children's medical needs are met if a serious injury occurs, however this is to be amended to ensure clarity.

Children learn about personal hygiene through daily routines and are made aware why they wash hands so there are no germs on them. The childminder provides individual flannels as towels to consistently prevent the risk of cross-infection. Food handling procedures are good as the childminder washes her own hands before the preparation of snacks and meals, to ensure potential hazards are minimised. If children are ill or infectious a written policy regarding exclusion is implemented effectively.

Children's dietary needs are met successfully and healthy eating is promoted. Individual needs are discussed with parents and recorded. The meals provided are healthy and nutritious and children rarely eat between meals to ensure the cooked lunches or tea are eaten and appetites are not spoiled. Children enjoy the picnic meals eaten under the veranda, where they play whenever possible. The individual routines of babies are appropriately followed and food and drink intake is discussed with parents to confirm needs are met.

Physical development is promoted in a variety of ways. Children have well-organised opportunities to play outside, especially under the veranda, and have a wide range of activities inside to encourage a positive attitude to healthy exercise. Wheeled toys, ball games and the use of the paddling pool in the summer are eagerly enjoyed by the children who access the garden via the kitchen or conservatory doors. The children are taken to a variety of parks where they are given many opportunities to develop running and climbing with increasing skill. Inside they have a range of walkers and furniture to move around, puzzles to assist in development of small muscle skills and access to paper, drawing and gluing resources for all ages. Children can have rest periods in a travel cot, on the sofa and when on school runs, in the pushchair to effectively meet their individual needs. Consequently, children are able to develop a healthy lifestyle with lots of fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children's safety is promoted as the childminder is aware of potential hazards and actively follows good practices, especially with regard to the proximity of the main road. Children are also developing an awareness of personal safety as they respond suitably to the childminder's expectations that they must not rush out of the side gate. When they are on school journeys and outings they hold the pushchair or hands and older children know they must not run. An awareness of safety during a fire is promoted very well. Evacuations have been practised and all children have an awareness of the sound of the alarm. Other aspects of indoor safety are carefully followed, such as no free access to the kitchen and the regular checking of babies when they are asleep upstairs.

Children are cared for in warm and welcoming, secure and suitable premises where there is ample space indoors to play and learn comfortably. Children's individual skills develop competently with the age-appropriate resources. They independently select activities from the range of good quality toys and equipment. Resources are stored in the shed or the chest under the veranda and boxes are brought in each day, depending on who is present. These resources are freely accessible and children can ask for favourites at any time. Children are encouraged to pack away before getting something else out. They show respect of property and as they are careful this ensures the toys remain in good condition for use. Older children engage in worthwhile activities at the dining tables without younger children interrupting or having access to hazardous small toys, such as construction toys or craft items.

The children's well-being is given top priority as the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection procedures and how to put these into practice. Information about her duty of care to protect children is shared in written policies with parents. The policy includes reference to the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and training which has been attended.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children experience a wide range of activities which contributes to their development on the premises and on outings away from the setting. The childminder loosely plans activities and encourages children to help themselves to the interesting range of resources. Aspects of the 'Birth to three matters' framework are promoted through the childminder talking to the children as much as she can to encourage language. They learn to do things on their own as well as share and take turns as they instigate imaginary play and particularly enjoy dressing up. Creative play opportunities are good and the children become engrossed for long periods, with such activities as magic painting; this gives them experiences of different methods of mark-making. The childminder has the 'Birth to three matters' framework pack. She has attended training and has an increasing awareness of the terminology and how to promote children's development. Activities and which aspect the child has progressed in are not recorded effectively, although the childminder presents challenging activities and helps children progress consistently.

Children are confident and include visitors in their play, sharing musical instruments and books. Younger children copy older children and learn how to use toys such as a carousel, laughing and smiling as it turns quickly around. The childminder skilfully promotes learning about size, shape and colour as she discusses the resources with the children. Older children relax after school and engage in activities such as board games or using torches in the garden in the dark to look at the sky and aircraft. They engage in many discussions about school subjects which often results in celebrating festivals. Their individual needs are met and their welfare is thoroughly promoted through the childminder providing appropriate support. Children show great interest in the resources as they play. They are very content in the setting.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures parents are fully aware of her policies and procedures and how children will be cared for during discussion at initial visits. Written information is not given to parents to retain. The certificate of registration and Ofsted poster are displayed to meet requirements. This assists in giving parents a wider picture of the childminder's responsibilities in caring for their children. Positive relationships with parents and a desire to work in partnership with them

to meet children's individual needs ensures the childminder is able to meet children's emotional and physical needs effectively. They are settled and happy. Parents are updated on their children's well-being and development through discussion.

All children are treated fairly as the childminder has an open-minded approach to inclusion and meeting individual needs effectively. She encourages all children to access age-appropriate activities and develop life skills. Individual needs are discussed with parents. Children are able to play with a range of non-stereotypical resources and any negative issues are addressed successfully. The children have access to a varied range of toys and some resources showing positive images of culture, gender and disability. Understanding and acceptance of the wider community and the development of positive attitudes is increased through activities and some celebrations of festivals from around the world.

The childminder has limited experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, however she has a solid understanding of potential need. She is well aware of how to adapt activities to ensure inclusion and has a positive attitude to caring for all children, with their individual personalities. To ensure all are included in activities she adapts presentation by putting resources on the floor or small tables. Independence is successfully encouraged. Children's needs are met through discussion with parents and the childminder has a clear understanding of the need to work with parents and outside agencies to effectively meet needs.

There are effective procedures in place to manage a wide range of children's behaviour. The childminder has attended training during 2006 and children generally behave appropriately as they respond to boundaries set. Children know they must apologise for hurting others and why 'time-out' periods are given. Consistent management helps children feel secure knowing what they can and cannot do in the setting. Good use of praise and encouragement helps to build development of children's self-esteem.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children's needs are effectively met by the childminder. Her knowledge of the requirements of registration are sound. Her written policies assist in promoting the care and learning of the children. The welfare of the children is generally promoted as personal records contain most information required. Registers are well maintained and ratios are met at all times. Children are supported by the childminder as they are under her direct supervision to ensure their time with her is enjoyable. She is well organised and provides a range of activities at different times of the day, depending on who is present and ensures all are safe. There is plenty of space and an interesting range of resources to meet children's needs. The childminder is caring and attentive to children. They are happy in the setting and enjoy the range of play opportunities, becoming absorbed in their play. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. New resources have been purchased and more discussion and celebration of festivals has been included in the range of activities. This develops children's understanding of the wider world in which they live. Two aspects relating to documentation were to be amended. These have been addressed and parents can be assured their children's medical needs are generally met.

Complaints since the last inspection

There has been one complaint made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004. This related to a number of the National Standards. As a result of the enquiries made and evidence gathered, actions were set in relation to National Standard 7, National Standard 11 and National Standard 14. The provider was required to address these actions within a set timeframe. The action responses were received and reviewed by a Childcare Inspector Team Manager. The childminder met the National Standards and remained qualified for registration at the time the investigation was closed.

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

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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 children's good health and well-being are consistently promoted by developing the recording of accidents and injuries.

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