

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	209691
Inspection date	03 January 2008
Inspector	Shirley Amanda Wilkes

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 1996. She lives with her husband and one child aged 13 years. They live on a large housing estate on the outskirts of Stone. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. There are currently six children on roll all of whom attend on a part time basis. The family has three pet dogs housed in purpose built kennels in the garden.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is important to the childminder and to make sure all children in her care stay healthy she has devised a sick child policy that makes it clear she will not care for children who are sick, ill or infectious. This limits the risk of infection to others.

Children receive appropriate care if there is an accident as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. All documentation is in place regarding emergency medical advice and treatment and medication administered, all of which ensures children's well-being.

Children are cared for in a home where they learn the importance of good hygiene practice through daily routines that teach them the importance of procedures, like washing hands before meals and after using the toilet. Even young babies have their hands wiped after nappy changing, which means they are beginning to learn that this is part of the routine.

Children are beginning to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. The childminder has a good understanding of healthy eating and children are able to choose from a range of healthy snacks, for example, fruit and vegetables. Children are able to access drinks freely throughout the day. Their individual dietary needs are met effectively, these are discussed in detail with parents, and specific dietary needs are recorded.

Children have plenty of opportunities for physical exercise. They make regular visits to the park where they practise their physical skills on playground equipment suitable for their age and stage of development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home that is clean, well maintained and organised. For example, children have space to enjoy the resources as they are kept at child-height so they can self-select. The childminder's home is maintained at an adequate temperature, which makes playing on the floor with toys comfortable for children.

Children play in a safe and secure environment, for example, the front door is always locked and children are unable to leave unattended. The childminder gives high priority to keeping children safe, for example the fire blanket is affixed to the wall in the kitchen and socket covers are in place. The childminder ensures children are secured in appropriate restraints when travelling in the car. All of which ensures children's well-being and safety.

There are plenty of resources for children to play with and these are kept in good condition by the childminder who regularly checks to ensure they are not broken or dirty. Toys are rotated to avoid children becoming bored and the range of toys spans from birth to about eight years old. Children are made aware of the importance of using toys and play equipment safely through explanation and discussion with the childminder. They are encouraged to pick up the toys before lunch and place them safely back in their boxes. The children enjoy this activity and even the youngest children are keen to help.

The childminder has a good awareness of signs of abuse and is confident of reporting procedures. She understands who to contact if she has concerns about a child which means children's safety is well promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the childminder's care. They enjoy a worthwhile range of activities and toys that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children play with enthusiasm and are engaged in purposeful play. The childminder spends time talking and

listening to the children, joining in their role play, for example, setting out the farm animals and lining up the cows for milking, talking about size and numbers. She records and discusses children's individual routines with their parents so that children have time to be active and to rest. Children have regular opportunities for physical development as the play area is safe and comfortable where infants are able to toddle safely. The childminder plans a variety of activities, for example, painting and gluing. Children are taken outside regularly on walks around the local area and enjoy visits to look at the animals. Children's self-esteem is being built upon through the childminder offering support when needed and the acknowledgment of their individual achievements, for example, 'well done' when a child is able to name the animals when playing with the farm.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have opportunities to learn about their local surrounding community from visits out of the home, for example visits to the local park and child-orientated venues. The children access resources such as, small world figures and books as an integral part of every day play, to enable them to develop a positive awareness of other races and cultures.

The childminder encourages children to understand right from wrong and tries to make them aware of her expectations and the boundaries within her home. She does this by changing the tone of her voice if she is displeased by their actions, uses distraction with younger children and uses short periods of time out for children with understanding. Once the incident is over, the child receives a hug and it is all forgotten. The childminder encourages children to develop a positive approach to helping others. For example, children help to tidy away toys. Children enjoy these small tasks and are praised for being helpful.

The childminder has established professional and friendly relationships with parents. She makes sure good communication links are maintained by spending time at the beginning and end of sessions discussing their child's day and how their needs were met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of the records that must be maintained and ensures that these are up to date, stored confidentially and available for parents. However, the attendance register does not record accurate arrival and departure times of the children. Parents receive copies of the childminder's policies and procedures and they are regularly informed of their children's progress and activities during daily verbal exchange. This ensures parents are able to contribute to their children's care whilst attending the setting.

Children are happy and confident in the childminder's care where they initiate and extend their own play and learning; they feel at home and at ease within the well-organised environment. The effective organisation of space ensures children's play opportunities are maximised and their individual needs are consistently met. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that children have access to an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and

anti-discriminatory practice. She was also asked to improve methods used for sharing the behaviour management policy with parents. The childminder has increased her selection of toys and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. This means the children's understanding of the wider world is being promoted. A written behaviour management policy is now in place and shared with parents.

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 records 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 register is an accurate record of arrival and departure times.

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