



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	222282
Inspection date	17 August 2005
Inspector	Heidi Falconer

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 satisfactory. 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 1985. She lives with her husband and 1 child aged 5 years in the town of Cambridge. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 3 children at any one time and is currently minding 3 children under 5 part time. The childminder walks to local toddler groups with minded children.

The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their good health. Each day there are outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example, regular visits to the local park improve children's gross motor skills whilst activities such as peg boards help to develop children's fine motor skills.

Children learn about basic hygiene as the childminder generally follows adequate routines, for example, children wash their hands before meals. However, at toileting times children are not always encouraged to wash their hands. This means that the risk of cross infection is not always minimised.

Children are effectively cared for when they are unwell which helps them to feel secure and comfortable. The childminder has written consent in place, from parents, to allow her to seek medical advice or treatment in an emergency. This would ensure that children receive appropriate care promptly. The childminder maintains clear records of medication to ensure that children's medical needs are met.

Parents provide the majority of snacks and meals for their children. The childminder stores all meals in the fridge to ensure that they are safe for children to eat.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are well protected because the childminder has some procedures and documents in place to promote their safety and welfare, for example, she holds a current first aid certificate and has a sound understanding of child protection procedures.

The childminder identifies and minimises most potential risks in her home to provide a generally safe environment for children. She uses safety equipment such as stair gates, fire guards and cupboard locks to enable children to move around safely indoors. However, the rear garden gate is not kept secure and therefore poses a risk to children's safety.

Children are developing an understanding of keeping themselves safe through the childminders use of clear boundaries and limits, for example, she asks the children not to climb on furniture because they may fall and hurt themselves. Children use a sufficient range of suitable and safe developmentally appropriate resources. Some are organised in low level boxes to allow children to access them safely and encourage independent access.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and confident in the childminder's home. Regular routines for meals, rest and play helps them to feel settled. Children enjoy a warm and affectionate relationship with the childminder, which contributes to their sense of belonging. They participate in a satisfactory range of activities and experiences, for example, they look at books, play with water, sand, puzzles, construction sets and have some opportunities to participate in creative activities such as sticking and drawing. Children's interest in the range of toys is maintained as the childminder regularly rotates what is on offer.

The childminder regularly attends toddler groups with the minded children, this provides them with opportunities to socialise with others. Regular trips to places which are of interest to the children, for example, to the local river to feed the ducks, provide children with opportunities to explore their local environment.

Young children's language development is supported by the positive interaction they receive from the childminder during some activities. Children enjoy sharing books with her and they repeat familiar sounds and words such as animal names and noises.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children have equal opportunities to access activities and resources that meet their individual needs, so that they can become confident and independent. They have access to dolls, books and puzzles that represent different members of society, helping them to learn about the world they live in.

Children make positive relationships between themselves and with the childminder and play well together. The childminders use of positive strategies for managing behaviour is helping children to learn to understand behaviour boundaries and to distinguish between right and wrong. Children's close contact with the childminder at sleeping times and her knowledge of their individual needs helps them to feel valued and content.

Relationships with parents are friendly. They are made to feel welcome when they arrive and are encouraged to share daily information about their child. This ensures that the children's changing needs continue to be met. The childminder has effective procedures for settling in new children, the visits are based around the children's needs which mean that children settle in quickly.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home and at ease in the childminder's care. This means that they are confident to initiate their own play and learning both indoors and out.

Generally the required documentation is in place. This contributes to children's health, safety and well-being. However, the childminder was unable to provide evidence to show that she has maintained accurate attendance records and some of her documentation does not reflect that Ofsted are the registered body. The childminder has maintained her first aid qualification, this ensures that she has appropriate knowledge to care for a child who becomes ill or has an accident.

The childminder talks to parents regularly to ensure that they are well-informed about the service that she provides and the activities that she completes with children. This contributes to the continuity of children's care so that they feel secure. Overall, the provision meets the needs of all of the children that attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous inspection recommended that the choice and availability of toys and equipment was balanced with the need for children to have sufficient floor space to allow them to play safely. The childminder has reduced the number of toys that she sets out daily. This ensures that there is adequate floor space which allows children to play safely. The childminder also agreed to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has developed her resources and she is now able to provide opportunities for children to learn about diversity and the wider world.

Since the previous inspection, the childminder has improved children's safety by ensuring that all over 16's living on the premises have completed the required checks.

To improve children's health, the childminder has put in place a suitable sick child policy to protect children from the risk of spread of infection. This policy is shared with parents prior to their children starting at the provision.

Complaints since the last inspection

Ofsted have investigated the concerns by conducting a visit to the provision. Upon investigation childcare inspectors were satisfied that they found no breach of the National Standards.

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 satisfactory. 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 that the rear garden is secure
- ensure that all records relating to the care of children are available for inspection at all times
- develop effective hygiene procedures to minimise the spread of cross infection after children have used the toilet.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk