



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY219044
Inspection date	16 September 2005
Inspector	Rachel Elizabeth Bent

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 has been registered since February 2002. She is registered to provide care for five children under 8 years old, of whom no more than two may be aged under 5 years, and of these no more than one may be under 1 year. She lives with her partner and pre-school age daughter in Walton-on-Thames. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor, with toilet and sleeping facilities provided in this area. There is an enclosed back garden. She has one cat and provides a non-smoking household. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean and relaxed environment where they learn the meaning of good personal hygiene. Effective daily routines and the childminder's own good practice prevent cross infection.

Parents supply meals and snacks but the childminder monitors the contents to ensure children have a balanced diet; however, she is not aware of correct procedures regarding reheating food. Babies are well nourished and enjoy the food provided. They receive regular drinks to ensure they do not become thirsty or dehydrated.

Babies enjoy regular trips to the park and local playgrounds in which the children run around and play on large equipment. This keeps them healthy and helps them develop important physical skills. Indoors there are suitable resources and furnishings that help young children gain control of their bodies and practise walking and climbing. The childminder builds warm relationships with babies, making sure they feel safe and confident in her care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a well-organised environment where they can move around safely. The childminder supports young children while they are learning to walk. This gives them confidence to attempt walking using furnishings for support. Children freely access a range of good quality toys and resources that are suitable for their age and stage of development. Good safety measures indoors ensure children only access areas and items that are suitable for their age. When the childminder takes children out, she keeps them safe by securing safety straps in buggies. Children are well supervised when playing in the garden and a daily visual risk assessment ensures that it is safe for children to use. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a sound understanding of child protection issues. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and at ease, both within the environment and with the childminder. They enjoy warm relationships with her that contributes to their feeling of security and sense of belonging. The childminder spends much of her time sitting on the floor, playing with and talking to the children. Good levels of interaction ensure that children enjoy their play and benefit from her positive input.

Children experience a varied range of activities, both inside and outside the home,

which contribute to their overall development. They regularly go to a toddler group and a local childminding group, where they have the opportunity to mix with other children and develop their social skills. These outings also enable children to play with different toys and experience a different environment.

Babies like to explore their surroundings and they play with stimulating toys which encourage their developing language, coordination, grip and movement. Babies learn to express themselves in different ways and make choices for themselves. The childminder supports babies' developing language by talking to them constantly and reinforcing new words.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder treats minded children as family members that make children feel confident and relaxed. Constant praise and encouragement helps children develop a positive self-image. The childminder gathers all relevant information before children are placed in her care. This ensures that individual routines are in place immediately. Care diaries for young children ensure continuity of care. The childminder respects parents' wishes that enable her to meet individual needs regarding routines.

Behaviour management strategies are appropriate and help children understand right from wrong.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her childminding activities and routines to fit in with children's patterns of attendance, their routines and interests. This means that they all benefit from her individual attention and from a good balance of home based activities plus regular walks, outings and visits to local toddler groups.

The childminder has a professional approach and a positive attitude to childminding. She recognises the importance of providing parents with information about her service and the procedures she follows. She is aware of the recent introduction of the 'Birth to Three Matters' framework of good practice and has applied to attend a training course on this to help her further develop her practice in the care of babies and young children. This has a positive impact on the quality of care children receive and on their general well-being. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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 that re- heating of food complies with Environmental Health requirements

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