

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	108150
Inspection date	07 January 2008
Inspector	Christine Coram
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 1987. She lives with her husband in the suburban area of Cox Green, close to Maidenhead, in Berkshire. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding one child during the day and two children before and after school, and in the school holidays. The childminder walks or drives to the local school to take and collect children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's hygiene is promoted through suitable routines, such as washing hands after toileting. However, the risk of cross-infection is not sufficiently reduced, as children and adults share a single hand towel. Children who need medication or who have an accident are protected well because the childminder has a clear understanding of the procedures relating to first aid, and

accident and medication recording. First aid kits are easily accessible both in the home and in the car.

Children are protected and their nutritional health is promoted well because the childminder is aware of any allergies and issues relating to food and drink. She has a very clear commitment to healthy eating and food provided by parents is stored in a safe and hygienic manner.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an appropriate environment that is clean, tidy and safe. They have access to plenty of space to play and there are different areas for activities, such as creative and floor play. The home is made welcoming for the children, and a range of resources is accessible to the children as they arrive. Children benefit from a suitable range of equipment and play materials that are in a suitable condition. They can access these safely and easily.

Children are protected well in the home because the childminder has procedures in place to make sure that any hazards are reduced. For example, the children know that they are not allowed in the kitchen area if the childminder is cooking. They are also kept safe on outings as they are taught to stay close to the childminder and hold her hand when crossing the road. Children are protected because the childminder has a clear understanding of safeguarding issues and is clear of her responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a range of age-appropriate activities. These are enhanced by the support and interaction from the childminder who uses her knowledge of how children develop and learn to extend their play. Activities are arranged to suit the needs of the children. For example, children attending after school, are given options that allow them to choose between types of activities, such as games and creative play. In the school holidays, interesting and varied outings are organised.

Children are challenged and stimulated through activities such as memory games. Their mathematical thinking is encouraged, for example, through various games. The childminder takes a great interest in their play and interacts with them throughout. She enhances their development by playing and talking with them. The children relate well to the childminder and to each other. They are confident to select resources for themselves and clearly enjoy the adult involvement in these activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for as individuals and their needs are met. The childminder knows the children well and values their individual personalities. Images of, and contact with people from varied backgrounds and with disabilities helps the children to develop open and accepting attitudes. Suitable methods of behaviour management ensure that the children behave well. Clear boundaries are in place. The children respond well to the firm reminders to be polite and kind to one another.

Suitable arrangements are made to liaise with parents. The childminder is keen to make sure that there is good communication about the children. This is achieved through daily conversations and additional telephone calls if necessary. The required information and written agreements are in place.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children are protected as they are only cared for by suitable adults. The childminder has the required qualification in first aid. However, she has not kept her record of attendance up-to-date and cannot show accurately when the children have been in her care. Other than this record, the required documentation is in place.

The care of the children is suitably organised. Children are not sufficiently protected from cross-infection, but the space in the home and resources are used well to provide a stimulating and safe environment for them.

Improvements since the last inspection

At her last inspection, the childminder agreed to make sure that a clear and signed written record is kept of medicines given to children. This record is now in place and clear, ensuring that children requiring medication are protected and receive the correct dose, and that parents are kept fully informed of the medication that the child has received.

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 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):

- review procedures to make sure that children are protected from cross-infection
- make sure that a record is kept of the children's attendance

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