

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	133370
Inspection date	01 February 2008
Inspector	Jill Milton
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 registered in 1988. She lives in a detached house with her husband in the village of Kennington, close to the centre of Oxford. The home is within easy walking distance of local shops, schools and preschools. The whole of the ground floor of the home is used for childminding and there is a rear garden for outdoor play. The childminder may care for up to six children under eight years and she currently cares for two children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean home in which the childminder maintains good standards of hygiene. Older children can access the clean downstairs bathroom independently and the childminder follows sensible routines when changing nappies to prevent the risk of cross-infection. Children's health is important to the childminder and she works in close liaison with parents to ensure she is aware of any additional health needs. The childminder plans ahead to maintain her first aid qualifications and she keeps new first aid supplies accessible.

Children receive positive messages about healthy eating when they enjoy fresh fruit snacks in the morning. When the childminder prepares food for lunch she includes nutritious items like grated carrots and cucumber. She maintains good communication with parents regarding children's dietary needs especially when there are changes in the type of drink or food a child may have. Children sleep comfortably in a quiet room and the childminder is aware of their sleeping patterns. For those too old to be in a travel cot there are plenty of soft furnishings on which to relax in the play room during the day. Children have access in fine weather to a safely enclosed back garden with a spacious lawn for taking part in active play. The garden backs onto woodland providing an interesting introduction to the children about nature. The childminder is building up her resources to support children's physical development though the range is a little limited. Children do take part in walks to local playgrounds to provide alternative opportunities for energetic play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a welcoming home that is well-maintained with plenty of space for the children to move around freely and independently. The main play room at the back of the house is light and the addition of rugs and soft covers on the floor make it a comfortable place for play. The children play with a broad range of toys suitable for their age range and the childminder alters the resources depending on their stages of development.

The children play safely because the childminder takes steps to keep the home environment suitable for young children. She makes good use of safety equipment to ensure the children remain safe in their play room and cannot access the kitchen. Toddlers enjoy safely holding the childminder's hand to go to the front door to collect post or to wave goodbye to visitors. The childminder has some effective procedures in place to monitor the security of the home and she makes notes if there are alternative arrangements for the collection of children at home time. The childminder has a competent understanding of child protection and she discusses her responsibilities with new parents. The childminder is aware of the procedures to follow if she has concerns for a child's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play happily with the childminder who is interested in them and becomes involved in their play. Children who wake from a nap have a short cuddle until they are ready to go and join in the fun of the activities. The day revolves around the routines of the children and the childminder talks knowledgeably about the children in her care. The children enjoy exploring toys which are accessible to them in open storage boxes. They enjoy musical toys and are learning some simple games like sorting shapes. The childminder offers older children more creative opportunities to match their growing abilities and stages of development. Toddlers are starting to interact with their peers and the childminder effectively promotes this early social interaction. Children are also starting to take part in imaginative play as they make 'cups of tea' and pass around pieces of pretend cake. A game with a pop-up puppet creates a lot of giggles and fun. The childminder relies on her previous years of experience to provide children with a good range of activities though she does not yet make use of new guidance entitled the 'Birth to three matters' for those working with children under three years.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the interest the childminder shows in their families. This good practice starts when the childminder collects detailed information from new parents and this includes helpful little additions of information about what each child likes or finds worrying. Children receive encouragement to join in with play and the childminder treats them with equal attention. Children are developing good self esteem as they make choices about what to explore. They are developing more awareness of the wider world as they go on outings into their local community and play with some resources that promote diversity in a positive way. The childminder has a welcoming attitude to children who may have learning difficulties or disabilities. She has in the past worked with parents to support children and she is happy for outside professionals to visit the home to share good practice.

Children are learning some valuable social skills as they start to play with their peers at the childminder's house. They receive lots of positive words from the childminder to share toys and to be kind to each other. The childminder is realistic about the expectations of toddlers and she sometimes buys two versions of favourite toys so that they can play peaceably. Behaviour is one area the childminder discusses with parents so that children have consistent messages of what is appropriate. The childminder builds up strong partnerships with parents and many express their satisfaction with her care in cards and letters. She offers a first visit to new families at a time when she is not minding so that she can devote time to conversations. There is good communication between the childminder and parents through the use of a notebook in which daily notes record any messages between them. This helps the adults to work together to provide effective support to young children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder makes good use of her home to support the care of children. She maintains high standards of cleanliness to protect children's health and she focuses her time in the day to the needs of the children. The childminder offers families flexible care over a long time period each day to fit in with their working patterns. She is able to call upon her many years of experience and attendance over time at courses to help her care for the children. The childminder has a strong understanding of the documents required for her work. She ensures she has information accessible to attend to the children in an emergency and she retains paperwork for many years. The childminder has a positive attitude to improvement and is keen to build on her skills and understanding.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to address an action to maintain a daily record of attendance of children. She is now complying with this regulation and maintains an accurate record of the times the children are in her care. The childminder also had to address three recommendations. She is steadily building up the range of resources on offer and introduces a wider range to the children as they reach certain ages and stages. The childminder has also added some opportunities for outdoor play though the range of resources available is due for some updating and this remains a recommendation for future improvement. Lastly the

childminder has obtained the local child protection guidelines so that she is aware of how to safeguard children more effectively.

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

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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):

- continue to develop resources to encourage active play both indoors and outdoors
- incorporate guidance like the Birth to three matters framework into planning activities for children under three years

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