

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	134735
Inspection date	05 March 2008
Inspector	Caroline Hearn

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 2001. She lives with her husband and three children aged nine, 11 and 15 years in Didcot, Oxfordshire. The whole of the ground floor of the property 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 and is currently minding 13 children part time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect the children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about good hygiene practices by following simple everyday routines such as washing their hands before snack and after messy play. Children who are unwell are excluded until they are better to reduce the possible spread of infection. Children receive appropriate treatment for any minor accidents as the childminder has a well-stocked first aid box and is clearly aware of how to implement her first aid training.

Children have lots of opportunities to undertake a variety of outdoor physical activities as the childminder takes them out every day for walks to the local parks or schools.

Children bring their own food and the childminder offers any additional snacks or drinks. To ensure children are provided with a balanced diet the childminder encourages parents to make healthy choices in the children's packed lunch boxes. She also offers them fresh fruit at snack times. To increase children's interest in fruit the childminder makes smoothies with the after school children to ensure they have a healthy snack after a busy school day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children and their families are made to feel welcome due to the child orientated layout of the home. They have freedom to play and explore their environment. This is due to the careful consideration which the childminder has given to safety. Children freely select activities from a varied range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards.

Children are able to freely explore the environment as the childminder has risk assessed all areas. For example, safety gates prevent unsupervised access to the stairs and electric sockets have covers. Children play safely and develop their independence during their time in the home. Children are closely supervised in the garden and the childminder has fully risk assessed areas such as the swimming pool to ensure they are safe.

Children's well being is enhanced as the childminder has a clear understanding of child protection and knows how to recognise concerns. The local child protection procedures are available which means referrals can take place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children take part in a wide variety of interesting and fun activities both inside and outside the home. They benefit from the childminder's clear awareness of their individual developmental needs and how to support these. She ensures that even simple activities such as playing with cars encourages young children's speech by talking to them about what they are doing and asking open ended questions to encourage a response. Children enjoy regular trips out to places such as local toddler or music session groups. During these trips they develop their social skills or learn about different types music and movement.

The children present were confidently undertaking activities and a warm relationship was observed between childminder and the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Child detail forms contain full information regarding each child allowing them to receive appropriate individual care. The childminder has a limited selection of resources which reflect positive images of our diverse society. This reduces children's ability to learn about other cultures and lifestyles. The childminder welcomes all children, including those with additional needs.

Children are well behaved and the childminder is a positive and calm role model. She is very aware of the need to manage behaviour depending on the child's level of understanding. For example, when a very young child gets upset and wants a toy which another child is playing with the childminder explains why the child can't just take the toy from his friend and helps him to find another similar car. This good use of distraction and discussion ensures that the children understand the boundaries and are generally well behaved.

New children and their families are shown around the house and given time to settle their children by having lots of visits. Parents are always invited in to allow them time to collect their children and chat about their day. These positive relationships strengthen the link between home and the childminders and allow for greater continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her home and time well for childminding purposes. She ensures children have ample time to both play and rest. This ensures the children get the most from the activities on offer. The childminder understands her responsibilities for protecting children from persons who have not been police-checked.

All of the required documentation relating to the care of the children is in place and stored securely. Children's records are updated regularly, which ensures they continue to receive appropriate individual care. The childminder has not completed her Ofsted self evaluation form, completing this would support her in reflecting on her child minding practice. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was required to address two areas of her documentation following her last inspection. Firstly she was asked to complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children. The childminder undertook this training and is aware of how to implement it. This ensures children receive appropriate treatment for any minor accidents. The second recommendation was to observe confidentiality when parents sign the accident and medication records. The childminder now ensures that each child has their own page in her record book which ensures their information is stored confidentially.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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 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):

- increase opportunities for children to learn about the wider world and other cultures
- consider reflecting on own practice by completing the Ofsted self evaluation form.

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