



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY218594
Inspection date	02 September 2005
Inspector	Ann Taylor
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 2001. She lives with her family of two adult children and one child of secondary school age in a quiet road in north Oxford. Childminding takes place on the ground floor only. There is a small, enclosed rear garden which is only used for sand and water play, but the childminder takes children to the local park on a regular basis.

She is registered to care for a maximum of three children during the day and currently has three children, part-time, on the register. The family have a rabbit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe environment that is warm and clean, where they are happy and settled. Children's individual needs are met because they are able to rest and be active according to their needs. Children enjoy physical activity because the childminder generally takes them to the local park every day. This contributes to their good health.

Children experience simple routines, which teach them to understand the importance of personal hygiene, and support them as they learn personal care.

Children's dietary needs are clearly understood by the childminder. She works closely with the parents to meet each child's needs. Children have access to drinks regularly through the day, especially in hot weather. The risk to children's health is minimised because food and drink are stored appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment. Babies and toddlers have a safe place to roll, crawl, and play within the house, and older children understand how to move about safely indoors. The childminder gives close attention to keeping children safe outside the home, particularly as they walk to and from toddler groups and the local parks on a daily basis.

Children are able to self-select from a suitable range of age appropriate toys and games. Equipment is clean and well maintained. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys, and ensures they are safe.

Children's safety is maximised because the childminder has an appropriate first aid certificate. Their welfare is fully safeguarded because the childminder is secure in her understanding of Child Protection procedures, and is aware of her responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are at ease with the childminder. They are settled and confident. Young children's sense of well-being is increased because they receive frequent cuddles and have a strong bond with the childminder. She talks to the children all the time, encouraging their play, and developing their language.

Children's early communication skills are extremely well supported by the childminder through effective adult-child interactions. Children learn what they can do and become increasingly independent because the childminder gives consistent support and meaningful praise.

Children can access stimulating and safe toys, which are stored at low level. The toddlers independently choose threading toys, dolls, an indoor seesaw, and walkers to play with. They joined in enthusiastically with the childminder to a children's song tape, which was playing.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children settle well because the childminder works closely with the parents to ensure they follow their home routine. Children benefit from this positive partnership with parents as the childminder continues to share wide-ranging information on a daily basis about the children's needs and development.

Children from a variety of ethnic backgrounds are warmly welcomed. Good relationships are encouraged. Children play happily together. Equal opportunities are actively promoted for all children because the childminder ensures that resources positively reflect individuals from the wider community. This helps children develop a positive attitude to others.

Children are encouraged to develop their social skills through regular visits to the local toddler and nursery groups where they meet other children and form new friendships.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced because the childminder attends training relevant to her provision. She is currently working towards TRIO accreditation. She enthusiastically attends Birth to three matters framework training, which aids her understanding of younger children.

The childminder has a high regard for the well-being of all children, producing a folder for parents containing precise policy statements and other good quality information including emergency evacuation procedures and first aid procedures. The childminder keeps parents informed daily of the children's activities and routines. All this contributes to the effective continuity of children's care.

Effective procedures are in place to ensure contact details for children are easily available. A daily register showing children's times of arrival and departure is competently maintained. Children's records, including information from parents to meet the needs of the children are well organised, although not all records are completed fully. The childminder needs to ensure they are consistently completed by parents and kept up to date.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since her last inspection the childminder has worked hard to improve all her documentation.

All documentation is now in place, and contracts with parents are mostly filled in, although there are some details left blank and the childminder must ensure that all parents complete and keep up to date all necessary details.

A register is in place with arrival and departure times recorded daily. The childminder now uses a well produced accident and medication book. She understands the correct process for completing it, and parents sign each entry.

She has been proactive in producing a folder for parents to see, which contains policy statements, insurance and registration documents, and has other useful information such as Child Protection procedures, references, and copies of the childminder's qualifications.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- ensure all paperwork pertaining to the minded children is fully completed and kept up to date.

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