

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY264130
Inspection date	18 October 2007
Inspector	Cordalee Harrison

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 September 2003. She lives with her husband and three children, two of whom are young adults, the youngest child is 10 years old. The childminder sometimes works with her daughter who is also a registered childminder and lives at the same address. The family live in Bicester in Oxfordshire.

Childminding activities are mainly contained to the ground floor of the childminder's home, where children have access to the living room, kitchen/diner and a playroom. Washing and toilet facilities are located on the first floor of the home. The property is located approximately one mile from Bicester town centre and there are local shops, community centre, park, playgroup and a school all within walking distance.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children, and is currently looking after eight children, under eight years. All of the children attend on a part-time basis, school aged children may attend before and after school and during the school holidays.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children get sufficient physical exercise daily to promote their physical development. They walk to and from school, in addition, they regularly walk in the local area and visit places of interest, such as activity centres and parks, these visits provide opportunities for them to use resources, such as swings and slides and other large equipment and to play outside. In addition, they participate in activities, such as, music and movement; these activities promote children's large and fine movements and develop their balance and coordination. Children further develop eye and hand coordination as they complete a wide range of activities that require fine movement. Young use their developing skills to promote their independence and self-care as they complete personal tasks, such as, dressing and eating independently.

To minimise the risks of cross infection for children the childminder maintains the home to a good standard of hygiene and cleanliness. In addition, she takes good care of children's personal hygiene and teaches them good hygiene habits; children are clean and comfortable. To promote healthy eating for children the childminder works closely with parents to ensure that children eat healthy and nutritious meals and snacks each day. Children mainly eat snacks of fresh and dried fruits and salad vegetables. The food that parents provide is stored appropriately and presented to children in a manner that is appropriate to their stage of development. To limit the risks of children choking the childminder supervises them closely whilst they are eating. Fresh drinking water is available to children throughout the day.

To safeguard children's health the childminder who is qualified in first aid uses appropriate first aid equipment to deal with children's minor accidents. Essential parental permissions are in place, such as, to seek emergency medical treatment or advice. In addition, children's allergies are clearly identified and the childminder is clear of the actions she must take in the event of an emergency in relation to dealing with children's allergic reactions. To further safeguard children's health medication and accidents records are clear, they are completed with all of the required information.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into a warm and comfortable home environment with sufficient space for them to carry out their activities. Bright colourful posters reflecting, letters, numerals and shapes, along with their artwork help to create a child centred environment and a sense of belonging for children. The orderly storage and easy availability of the good quality safe and age stage appropriate resources encourage children to make independent choices about play and promotes independent learning. In addition, equipment such as, a high chair and travel cot enables young children to sit comfortably to eat and to sleep safely.

Children are safe and secure because the childminder supervises them closely and takes many effective safety precautions in the home. For example, safe arrangements are in place for children's arrival and departure and to ensure that the areas that they use are safe the childminder carries out regular risk assessments. Suitable fire fighting equipment is in place, for example, the fire blanket is fixed in the kitchen and the smoke detectors are in working order. To help children to know what to expect in an emergency the childminder practises the escape plan with them. To help children to develop their understanding of personal safety they

discuss safety issues with the childminder and learn clear boundaries for safe behaviour indoors and when they are in the street.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates good understanding of safeguarding children. She is aware of the four main categories of child abuse and gives clear example of some of the possible signs and symptoms that may indicate possible abuse. To safeguard children's welfare she is clear about lines of communication for dealing with safeguarding issues, she takes account of parents, the local and registering authorities. In addition, she maintains good quality information about child protection, including the Local Safeguarding Children's Board guidelines. She shares relevant contact numbers and a clearly written child protection statement with parents. This informs them of all aspects of her role in the protection of children and ensures that both parties are able to act independently and immediately to safeguard children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well and are happy and confident in the childminders care, because she gives them her time and attention in play and conversation and cares well for their emotional well-being. They approach her confidently and hugs and cuddles are commonplace. Children promote their intellectual development in a variety of interesting and stimulating ways. For example, they weigh and measure in their cooking activities. They put their skills to good use as they make foods, such as, homemade biscuits and further develop their understanding of healthy eating as they use a range of vegetable to create their favourite pizza toppings. They promote their communication and language skills, as they, explore books, read and listen to stories and use number language in their everyday conversations. For example, story sack that is readily accessible to the children allows them to explore and use books, such as the 'Hunger caterpillar' they identify familiar pictures and develop their love for books and stories. Children count as they use the play dough and find the different tools, such as, rolling pins and cutters to use to develop the activity.

All of the children make meaningful choices about their play, because they use ample good quality age and stage appropriate resources. High visibility of letter, numeral, and shapes help children to practise, forming letters, and numbers and replicate various shapes. The resources are attractive and appealing for children to use and they produce many bright colourful pictures, which demonstrate their creativity and experiences. For example, a collage using leaves collected on their walk captures their enjoyment of a recent autumn activity and extends their understanding of the natural world. Children further explore their creativity as they enjoy making and listening to music and extend their activities and imagination with pretend play. Children develop their social skills as they enjoy activities out in the wider community, they visit parks and other local places of interest. The childminder helps children to make good progress in their overall development, because she uses her knowledge of child development effectively and provides them with many interesting, stimulating good quality play experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of issues of equality. She treats children with equal concern and provides opportunities for them to learn about the wider society and cultural diversity. For example, children acknowledge cultural celebrations, such as, Diwali and express their understanding in their artwork. In addition, practical resources, such as, dolls and

books, which reflect diversity, help them to learn about similarities and differences in positive ways. Some writing in the Japanese script help children to understand that people from different cultural backgrounds or countries may communicate in different languages and scripts. Overall, the childminder provides well for children's individual needs. She differentiates activities for younger and older children in their everyday play. However, the next step for children is not always clearly identified to ensure that she provides consistent challenges for individual children.

The childminder uses positive behaviour strategies that are appropriate to the understanding of the children she looks after. The main strategies that she uses are praise and acknowledgement, distraction, explanation, discussion and appropriate levels of stimulation. She lets children know when their behaviour is unwanted and this helps them to learn right from wrong and consider how their behaviour affects others. In addition, she discusses behaviour management with parents to ensure that her behaviour strategies are consistent. The childminder works extremely well with parents; they compliment her highly on her professional approach and state that she provides excellent care and service for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder's organisation is comprehensive it covers all aspects of her childminding activities. Children are welcomed into a well-organised home environment, where they are safe and secure. Children use ample good quality play resources in their activities and enjoy a wide range of good quality play experiences in and outside of the home. The childminder is committed to improving her childcare practice and childminding service. For example, since the last inspection she has attended training to improve the quality of the childcare she provides. She has recently completed training to increase her understanding of inclusion and disability.

The childminder safeguards children's welfare appropriately, she ensures that children are in her sight or hearing at all times. In addition, all of the documentation required to safeguard children's health and welfare are appropriately maintained, stored confidentially and ready for inspection. Children's record forms the record of attendance and the complaints policy contain all of the required information. For the benefit of the children she minds, the childminder maintains valid public liability insurance and a valid and relevant first aid certificate. To assure parents of her continued good childcare practices the childminder shares several clearly written and informative practice statements with them, including complaints, equal opportunity and behaviour management. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provider was asked to keep a record of the times medicine is administered to children. Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved the recording of the medication she administers to children. The medication record now includes all of the required information; children's health is properly safeguarded.

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 complaint 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 plan for the next step in individual children's learning and development to ensure that appropriate challenges are identified for individual children consistently.

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