

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY271311
Inspection date	31 January 2008
Inspector	Coral Hales
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 2003 and is a qualified teacher experienced in early years. She lives with her husband and three children aged six, 11 and 14 years in Bracknell, Berkshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding five children under five during the day and one child over five after school. She walks/drives to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children and attends the local toddler group and takes children to the local library and park.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean and well-maintained home and are learning how to live healthy lifestyles. They are learning about personal hygiene and are becoming independent in their self-help skills and younger ones are well supported in their routines. Parents are given clear information about keeping children at home when they are ill because caring for them would be detrimental to others. Children are well cared for in the event of an accident as the childminder has a current first aid qualification and an easily accessible first aid kit. Accidents are recorded and information shared with parents. Consent for emergency treatment/advice is maintained. Daily routines follow familiar patterns which includes time to sleep, eat and play as required.

Children are provided with regular, nutritious food throughout the day and are learning about healthy eating. Regular discussions and helping to prepare snacks and meals helps them to begin to understand about different foods. Simple snacks are served at lunch time, for example, sandwiches or cheese or beans on toast and children are given fruit regularly throughout the day. Those still with the childminder in the early evening are provided with nutritious home cooked meals for example, pasta or casseroles with a selection of fresh vegetables. She works closely with parents of babies and together they ensure suitable meals are provided. Drinks are freely available and the childminder ensures younger children are regularly offered drinks to ensure they do not become dehydrated.

Children have many opportunities to exercise and play outdoors, either in the large garden or in the local park. Planned visits to local outdoor attractions in the forest and soft play areas allow them to develop new skills in a different environment as well as learning to socialise with others.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into a child friendly environment and the premises are clean, bright and well-maintained. They have access to the whole of the ground floor including the playroom and the rear garden. The toilet is close to the main play areas and this supports those children who are learning new toileting skills. There are comfortable places to sit and rest and lots of space to be active. The childminder has assessed potential hazards and has taken appropriate steps to minimise risks. For example, smoke alarms are in place, a fire blanket is in the kitchen and children have practised emergency evacuations. However, these have not been recorded so any hazards identified are not noted to ensure children's continued safety is maintained. Children make regular outings from the childminder's premises and are kept safe when out walking as appropriate equipment such as buggies are used. Car seats are available to secure children safely when they travel by car and the childminder discusses simple road side procedures which they practise when they go out in the community.

The wide range of toys and play resources are well looked after and attractive and interesting to the children. They are stored where children can easily get to them according to their age and stage of development. The childminder carefully selects toys for the very young children.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and has recently attended a course in child protection to further develop her knowledge. She has all current guidance in

place and this informs her practice and booklets are available for the parents. This ensures that children are safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children gain a high level of confidence and self-esteem as they receive excellent adult support and encouragement from the childminder. The premises are welcoming and child-friendly and she understands how children learn and how to make this enjoyable. Their play is very well promoted through her enthusiasm and passion for learning. She shows an excellent understanding of how children develop language, how they think and ensures that the activities she prepares encourages them to ask questions and make decisions for themselves. She constantly talks to them whilst they are playing and children benefit from this stimulation and enjoy the relaxed and homely atmosphere she provides.

Children participate in activities that are well thought out and planned by the childminder. She uses the Birth to three matters framework as a guide when planning for the younger children and she has a treasure basket in use to stimulate and interest them. She completes tracker books to note their progress and shares this with the parents.

The childminder uses the Foundation Stage guidance to plan for the older children to ensure she covers all areas so that they make the best possible progress. She completes development records which are used to chart their progress and achievements and this is shared regularly with parents. This information is used to help the childminder to plan activities that support individual learning styles.

During the inspection minded children enjoy learning and talking about different areas of the house and together with the childminder look at different machines used in the home. They then look at pictures of kitchen equipment and select those seen and cut them out to stick in the appropriate rooms drawn on paper. This really encourages the children to think and make comparisons with their own home. They enjoy creative activities such as play dough, happily making shapes and chat all the time about what they are doing. They go out to learn about the local community for example, they visit the post office to observe how things work and learn about those people who help us. Children enjoy their time at the childminder's and are eager and enthusiastic to take part and their social and personal development is well nurtured. Children are confident and secure in this stimulating environment. They have developed a close relationship with the childminder and they enjoy her involvement in their play. She encourages them to play together and they are learning to share and respect each other. For example, the older child played really well with the baby present helping him to build with the bricks and she chatted to him and was very caring.

Older children returning from school are given opportunities to make their own decisions about what they would like to do. For example, they play with their chosen toys, sit and relax with a book or watch television. Planned activities and outdoor play are also available to them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children receive good care according to their needs because the childminder knows them well and routines are followed as discussed with parents. Children are well settled with a caring and trusted adult who provides a warm and stimulating environment. The childminder has a very

good understanding of how to care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is fully aware of how to include and appropriately care for them to ensure that their needs are fully met to enable them to make good progress in their learning.

The children are beginning to learn about their own and other cultures, lifestyles and religions and have access to a good range of play resources which reflect diversity and these support children's understanding about the needs of others. For example, small world equipment helps them to learn about disabilities and books and posters inform them about the wider world.

Children behave well and the childminder encourages them to share and take turns and think about the needs of others. They are actively praised for their achievements and kindness to one another, therefore promoting their self-esteem and social development. Children's individual needs are met well as the childminder develops good relationships with parents, which fosters effective exchange of information and promotes continuity of care. Written agreements are in place to ensure all are aware of their roles and responsibilities and parents are fully aware of the complaints procedure.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by effective and efficient organisation and by the qualified childcare practitioner's professional and committed attitude to her work. Space is organised in an effective manner and all resources meet the children's differing requirements. The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards and her written policies and procedures reflect this. Required records are suitably maintained, accessible and stored securely to maintain confidentiality.

Good relationships with parents ensure that information is shared and together they work to promote the children's safety, good health, progress and development. The childminder is well-organised and she ensures that children receive appropriate attention and that the correct adult/child ratios are always maintained. Overall, the provider meets the needs of the range of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that parents were fully informed about the systems to follow should they have any concerns to raise. All up-to-date and relevant information relating to complaints is shared with parents and a written complaints policy is in place giving them all relevant details. Parents have also provided passwords to ensure their children's safety if other adults collect. This ensures that children safety is maintained.

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 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 that emergency evacuations are recorded so that any hazards identified are noted and rectified as necessary.

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