



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	222578
Inspection date	13 December 2005
Inspector	Lorraine Hunt

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 1996. She lives with her husband and 3 children aged 16, 13 and 7 in a large village to the north of Cambridge. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 5 children at any one time and is currently minding 3 children under 5 on a part-time basis, and 1 child over 5 after school one day a week. The childminder walks to the local schools and pre-school to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler

group. The family has no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted by the childminder's understanding and implementation of good health and hygiene procedures. Her high standards of hygiene and awareness of health issues ensures that the spread of infection is minimised. Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through regular daily routines; they wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. If children become unwell whilst they are in the care of the childminder, up-to-date records are in place to make sure that they receive appropriate care. For example, written consent to seek medical treatment and to administer medication are in place and these ensure children's well-being.

Children have regular opportunities to play outdoors, which contributes to their good health. They visit the local park and safe play area to develop their physical skills, and they benefit from exercise and fresh air on a daily basis. They develop new physical skills according to their stages of development using the wide range of suitable toys and resources provided. Children rest and sleep according to their individual needs.

Children's health and dietary needs are met through discussion with parents. Children are able to access drinks throughout the day which encourages healthy drinking practices. Their individual dietary needs are recorded and this ensures that their nutritional needs are recognised and met appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and safe home environment. Their work is prominently displayed making the children feel valued, which gives them a sense of belonging. The childminder has an excellent understanding of safety issues; for example she has obtained safety reports on all potential hazards such as PVA and stick glues, to ensure children are kept safe from harm. Children have space to move around safely and freely as she has identified and minimised risks such as covering all low level accessible socket covers and securing free standing shelving units to the wall. Children learn about the importance of keeping themselves safe through routines and reminders; for example, the need to have bare feet, or to wear slippers indoors on the slippery wooden floor.

Children have use of an extensive range of good quality, developmentally appropriate toys, equipment and resources which are carefully chosen to support children's play. These are checked regularly to ensure they are in good condition and safe for the children to use. The good organisation of toys and activities means that children can follow their own interests and develop their play. Children are well

protected because the childminder has all the required documents and procedures in place to promote their safety and welfare. For example, she holds a current first aid certificate and has a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee guidelines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and have established warm and affectionate relationships with her, which contributes to their sense of belonging. Children enjoy an extensive range of activities, which contributes to their creativity and imagination, for example they enjoy making music with instruments, singing with the childminder and her guitar, and taking part in art and craft activities. Play is often child led with children able to make independent choices from accessible resources. The childminder also plans some activities around themes, which often use children's interests as a starting point so that children feel involved and learning is meaningful. For example, children learnt from exploring in the garden about mini-beasts, found out more about them from simple reference books and then enjoyed making their own from collage materials such as bubble wrap and fur painted fabric.

Children display high levels of confidence in their daily activities and are developing very good independence skills, as they busy themselves and become absorbed in their activities. Children's communication skills are extremely well supported through high quality interaction with the childminder as they discuss their activities and talk about what they are doing. For example, children count and use mathematical language with the childminder as they play with different sized containers in a large container of oats. Children's language and thinking is extended through spontaneous opportunities such as sharing a book or using the childminder's own storybook of the '5 little ducks'. The childminder has an excellent understanding of child development and uses this secure knowledge to help children develop and make good progress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and the childminder's thorough knowledge of their individual needs enables her to provide them with appropriate care. All children have equal opportunities to access activities and resources that meet their individual needs so that they become confident and independent. Children learn to share, take turns and consider the needs of others as the childminder effectively helps them to develop their relationships with one another. Consistent expectations and routines help them to feel secure and the childminder's support, meaningful praise and encouragement helps children to develop good levels of confidence and self-esteem.

The effective partnership with parents and carers contributes towards the children's care, well-being and feelings of security. Written feedback from parents demonstrates their high regard for the childminder's practice and the care she provides. Individual

written information sheets about a child's day, and daily discussions with parents, ensures that information is shared, routines are followed and children's changing needs are recognised and met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are welcomed into a well-organised environment, which is thoughtfully planned and prepared before they arrive each day to meet the interests and developmental needs of the children attending. Children have good levels of support to help them feel comfortable and at ease which means that they are confident to explore and investigate the stimulating range of toys and creative art, craft and messy play opportunities.

Children benefit from the childminder's sound and secure knowledge of child development and of her legal duties. Up-to-date records contribute to the health, safety and well-being of all of the children and documents are well organised, regularly reviewed and stored confidentially. The written policies and procedures are shared with parents, which means they clearly know about the provision and the care their child receives. The good quality of the care provided means that the needs of all children are well met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to continue with training and personal development. She has successfully completed the Level 1 Quality First assurance scheme and has attended the National Childminding Association (NCMA) conference to develop her knowledge and practice.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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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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 the record of medicines administered to children is completed appropriately and parents countersign entries.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk