

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	159827
Inspection date	29 January 2008
Inspector	Samantha 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 has been registered since 2001. She lives with her husband and their two children aged 15 and 9 years in Maidenhead, Berkshire. Most areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have two dogs, a cat and two rabbits.

The childminder is register to care for six children and is currently caring for four children on a full and part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends local parent/carers groups and takes children to the local parks and the library.

The childminder is a member of the Maidenhead Childminding group. She also is a member of the National Childminding Association, has a NVQ level 3 in childcare and a current first aid qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children have access to healthy drinks, snacks and meals provided by the childminder. Meals and snacks provided at regular intervals throughout the day include a very good balance of fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and fish. Snack times are a very social occasion with children sitting at the table together. The childminder encourages children to choose their own fruit from the good selection available in a bowl on the table. Older children are actively encouraged to help prepare the fruit and then share it amongst one another. Children happily eat their fruit, chatting about their favourite pieces and through positive discussion start to become aware of healthy eating.

Children have regular access to fresh air and exercise. The childminder takes very good steps to promote children's physical well-being as they regularly go on walks to nursery, school, and local parks. In addition they visit local ball pool/activity centres, gym and music clubs and use the garden to extend and develop physical skills. A good variety of toys and resources are available such as ride on toys, balls to help further support and aid physical development.

Children become aware of their own personal hygiene and learn about germs, through very good routine and discussion with the childminder. For example they know they need to place tissues in the bin after they wipe their noses, place their hands over their mouths when they cough and wash their hands before preparing snacks. Older children confidently take themselves off to the toilet and show the childminder their clean hands when they come back.

The childminder has high regard for children's health and hygiene as she provides them with individual bedding, easily accessible hand towels, soap, wipes and tissues. She follows excellent hygiene procedures when changing nappies, ensuring she wears gloves, wiping down the changing mat and disposing of nappies outside after every nappy change. Nappy changing take place away from the general play area, this further promotes good hygiene and respects children privacy. The childminder shares a comprehensive written sickness policy with parents which details when children can and can not attend if they are ill. This ensures everyone's well-being is actively protected and promoted.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children begin to become aware of their own safety. They know they must walk sensibly when on outings with the childminder, as they might get "squashed by the cars". The childminder practises the emergency evacuation procedures with the children. Younger children are strapped into booster chairs to ensure they can not climb out, and children are encouraged to tidy away toys they no longer wish to play with so that they do not pose a trip hazard.

The childminder carries out regular safety checks throughout her home to ensure risks to children's safety are minimised. These include checking smoke alarms weekly, storing items such as toiletries and cleaning fluids effectively so that children do not access them and using safety features such as socket covers and stair gates. The childminder records all visitors to her home and ensures children are not left unattended with persons unvetted.

Children have access to a wide variety of toys and resources. Toys are of good quality, clean and well maintained by the childminder. Children are freely able to select many toys from low

level boxes arranged around the room. Resources such as booster chairs, travel cots and stair gates are in good order. The childminder carries out regular checks of all toys and resources to ensure they remain safe and suitable for children to use. She actively encourages children to care for toys, for example asking them to put the books back so they do not get damaged.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection. She holds all the required documentation including local safeguarding children procedures and local authority contact numbers to help and support her effectively. Parents receive written information detailing her duty to report any concerns and are asked to provide the childminder with details of any existing injuries their child may arrive at the setting with. This helps to further promote children's welfare and safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy and settled in the childminders care. They are confident and clearly benefit from the close relationships they are building with the childminder. Children relate well towards one another, sharing stories and toys as they play alongside one another. The children have very good opportunities throughout the week to mix with others both in the setting, and at local toddler and childminder groups.

Children eagerly choose books from the shelf. They share a story about Percy pig with the childminder, eagerly climbing onto her lap to listen. She encourages older children to identify the shapes, colours and letters in the story whilst encouraging younger children to make the noises of the pig and turn the pages. They play with small world people, giving them names as they load them on the bus and linking them to their favourite children's character.

Children receive excellent praise and encouragement from the childminder. She actively involves herself in the children's play and learning in a very positive manner. For example, she interacts with them at their level and asks how, why, what, questions in a fun manner to aid and extend their learning and enjoyment. She clearly enjoys spending time with the children. They engage easily in conversation with her and are confident to make their needs known.

The childminder demonstrates a very good understanding of the children's ages and stages of development. She takes excellent steps to meet their individual needs, planning a daily routine that allows for structured and unstructured play, meals and sleep routines. This helps the children to feel happy and secure in the setting.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well; they are beginning to learn the difference between right and wrong, as the childminder sets clear boundaries and gives good explanation. For example explaining to older children the importance of sharing and how it helps the younger children to share too. Children receive positive praise and encouragement from the childminder. This helps them to build good self-esteem and feel good about themselves and their achievements.

Children have access to a good range of toys and experiences, which help them, become aware of the wider community and have respect for others. They show warmth and kindness to one another, for example, older children pass fruit and drinks to younger children. The childminder treats all children with equal concern. She collates information relating to children's individual

needs prior to them starting and is proactive in addressing any concern with parents at the earliest opportunity.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents receive a variety of information about the childminder and the care she offers prior to starting. This includes sickness, behaviour management, health and safety, food and drink and how to make a complaint. The childminder provides feedback on a daily basis according to parent's individual needs and wishes with most currently receiving verbal feedback, which includes how their child has been, activities and outings undertaken and meals eaten. Parents comment on the childminder's flexible and professional approach, and also the very good care she provides offering stability, kindness to their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a very professional approach to her childminding. She is pro-active in keeping up to date with current practice, for example attending training courses such as child protection, first aid, health and safety and food hygiene. In addition she has also completed a level three qualification in early year's childcare. All regulatory documentation that contributes to the children's welfare, safety and well-being in the setting is in place however there is area for improvement. The childminder does not currently accurately record all children's hours of attendance. She displays her certificate of registration prominently for all to see, and has requested changes to her certificate promptly to ensure she continues to meet her conditions as laid down by the regulator. Records relating to accidents and medication are effectively maintained and the childminder stored all documentation relating to the children confidentially.

The environment is effectively arranged to allow children freedom to play safely and comfortably. The childminder supports them very well in their play, ensuring they all receive a good level of care and attention. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to ensure parents complete and sign the forms available for emergency medical advice or treatment, and to obtain numbers of the local child protection team. The childminder now has parental consent in place for all children to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. She also has obtained the contact numbers for the local child protection team which she stores with her policies and are therefore easily accessible should she need to access them.

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 documentation related to all children's hours of attendance is accurately maintained.

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