



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 222036
Inspection date 09 January 2006
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 1992. She lives in a large village to the north of Cambridge with her partner and 3 children aged 12, 17 and 21, the eldest being at home only between University semesters. The play room, living room and dining room are used for childminding. Toilet facilities are located on an upper floor of the split level premises. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 3 children under 5 all day and 3 children over 5 before and after school. The childminder also cares for children over 8 and offers school holiday

care. The childminder walks to the local playgroups and primary school to take and collect children. The childminder attends local parent and toddler groups. The family has 2 cats and some fish as pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home and good hygiene routines help them to learn about the importance of washing their hands before meals and after using the lavatory and touching the cats. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and appropriate accident and medication record keeping systems are in place which contribute to safeguarding children's health. A sickness policy is discussed with parents to ensure that the risk of cross infection is minimised. However written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment has not been obtained.

Children's health and dietary needs are met through discussion with parents. Children are able to access regular 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. Children enjoy physical exercise indoors, in the garden and during local outings and walks to school. This helps them to learn about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle and promotes their health and physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe home environment where risks are minimised, and they move around safely and independently under the childminder's constant supervision. They learn to understand about keeping themselves safe through simple safety rules, indoors and when on outings, and through taking part in regular fire drills. They are well protected because the childminder has all the required documents and procedures in place to promote their safety and welfare. For example, the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection procedures, which are in line with those set out by the local Area Child Protection Committee.

Children play with a range of good quality, developmentally appropriate toys and resources which the childminder cleans and checks regularly to ensure they are safe and in good condition. These are rotated to offer variety, but children can ask for a particular favourite if it is not already available so that individual interests and preferences can be catered for.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and secure in the childminder's home. They form warm, affectionate relationships with the childminder and enjoy their time with her. The childminder has a sound understanding of child development which enables her to provide a varied and stimulating range of activities which help them to make progress. She offers them good support during their activities which encourages them to develop their skills. For example, four year olds enjoy playing fun games such as 'Junior Boggle' with the childminder, who skilfully encourages their developing confidence in recognising letters and sounds.

Play is often child led with children able to make independent choices from accessible resources. They enjoy good opportunities to use their imagination as they dress up, make their own creatures from playdough and enjoy music activities such as dancing, joining in action songs and playing instruments. The childminder joins in the children's play with lively interest and provides meaningful support, praise and encouragement which helps children to develop good levels of confidence and self-esteem, to learn what they can do and to know when to ask for help.

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. They learn to behave well and understand what is expected of them through consistent expectations and regular routines such as always sitting at the table for meals. Children are also encouraged to be involved in helping to pack away toys which gives them responsibility and a sense of ownership. Children's self-esteem and confidence is promoted through the childminder's use of positive behaviour management strategies

Children learn about the local community through regular local visits to the library and attendance at toddler groups which give them the opportunity to socialize and relate to other adults and peers. Children also benefit from positive relationships between the childminder and their parents; their progress is discussed daily so that children's changing needs continue to be met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are comfortable, happy and at ease with the childminder and in the home environment. This means that they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The childminder effectively maintains and uses appropriate forms of record keeping and has procedures in place to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. She has developed her own information sheet which she gives to new parents which informs them about her practice and her responsibilities as a registered childminder. She talks to parents on a daily basis to keep them well informed about the care provided and their child's activities. This contributes to the

continuity of children's care so that they feel secure. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to review the location of the fire blanket and the security arrangements with regard to the front door. The fire blanket is now located appropriately in the kitchen and the front door is kept locked whilst childminding takes place, to ensure children are kept safe.

The childminder also agreed to obtain Area Child Protection Committee reference information and to record existing injuries. She now has the necessary information to refer to if she has any child protection concerns and records existing injuries in order to protect children from harm.

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

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):

- obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment

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