

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	105365
Inspection date	05 February 2008
Inspector	Claudia Padfield
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 satisfactory. 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 1994. She lives with her family in a flat in Slough. The property is close to local shops, schools, parks and amenities. The whole of the flat is used for childminding.

The family have a pet goldfish.

The childminder is registered to care for three children under five and currently has three children on roll attending a variety of sessions.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder encourages and supports the children in her care to be independent in their personal care routines. They anticipate the need to wash their hands and remove shoes after arriving back from nursery. They talk about the expectations with the childminder who uses gentle reminders to ensure they complete the required tasks before meals and after visiting

the bathroom. Children are well supported and enjoy the independence of sitting together to eat their lunch. The childminder works closely with the parents to ensure the children have a healthy and nutritious range of meals and snacks. This considers each child's eating patterns, likes and dislikes.

Through a flexible range of activities and considering the individual children's need to rest and play the children enjoy a variety of outings into the local community each week. They attend a dance class to develop their gross motor development and enjoy regular opportunities for fresh air during walks at the park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have free access to a selection of toys and equipment, this is rotated to ensure they are safe and suitable. The childminder is vigilant in her supervision of the children, who know how to walk up the steps safely and stay close the childminder when accessing the car. The children have a growing awareness about staying safe; they ask to go to the bathroom and do not go into the kitchen without supervision. However the childminder does not have a current first aid qualification, but is aware of what to do should an accident arise.

Children are protected from harm by the vigilant supervision, the childminder has thought through what action she would take in the case of a fire and is aware that the flat has fire doors which would offer further protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and settled within the setting, they anticipate daily routines and engage the childminder in their play. Throughout the minded week the childminder plans a range of activities in and out of the house to consider all areas of the children's development. Children are learning to share and take turns they engage in complex imaginative play for extended periods of time. The children tidy up one activity before working together to complete a selection of puzzles. This activity is encouraged through praise and discussion to enhance the children's learning. Warm relationships are evident and children enjoy the company of the childminder who affectionately supports their learning. Children are independent and plan their own time with the childminder ensuring they have opportunities to be active and quiet within their daily routine.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are considered as the childminder ensures her routines are flexible. As children grow tired towards the end of the week the pace and variety of activities reflects their needs to rest. Through outings into the community children are learning about different people and places. The childminder ensures she has time to verbally update the parents at the end of the day and share anecdotes from the day's activities. Children are well behaved and know the 'house rules and expectations'. They share and take turns with other children in the home and show respect for each other's feelings. Children enjoy sharing news about the morning events at nursery and making decisions regarding the activities they complete at the childminders house. Children are valued as individuals and have high levels of self esteem.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well protected and cared for by the childminder who has a good knowledge and understanding of child development. They receive good care and attention from the childminder, contributing to them feeling settled and secure. A selection of written policies and procedures guide the childminder in her daily practice. This ensures she meets children's needs and she shares all relevant information with parents. Time for daily verbal updates at the end of the day ensures parents are fully informed about their child's progress. The childminder provides a calm and welcoming environment for children to explore freely and she does not leave children unsupervised with persons not vetted. This contributes to children's enjoyment, achievement and ability to take an active part in activities and games within the home. Most of the legally required documentation that contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place, although some lacks necessary detail. Overall, 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 requested to address four issues. Documentation to support the administration of medication by the parents before minding has now been implemented, and signatures regarding emergency medical consent have been sought. Registers are still not done on a regular basis to denote arrival and departures, therefore this has been raised as a new recommendation.

The childminder has updated most of her documentation but still has some detail to update to ensure the care of the children is paramount.

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 satisfactory. 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 first aid qualification is kept up to date
- ensure documentation and contact details are revised and up to date

- ensure attendance registers denote arrival and departures of the children

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