

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	105369
Inspection date	26 March 2008
Inspector	Catherine Louise Sample
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 outstanding. 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 1995. She lives with her husband and teenage children on the outskirts of Slough. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have a hamster.

The childminder is registered to care for a total of six children at any one time. There are currently six children on roll.

The childminder has qualifications in social care and emergency paediatric First Aid. She has former experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are gaining an excellent understanding of good hygiene practice. They know that they need to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. When a child is reluctant to

do so the childminder gently reminds them why it is necessary. They talk with the childminder about why it is important to wash or peel fruit before eating it.

Children's hygiene needs are met highly effectively. They use separate flannels and regularly washed hand towels to prevent cross infection. The childminder takes thorough steps to ensure good hygiene in the home. For example, she uses different chopping boards for different types of foods and has one fridge for meat and one for non-meat products. She also has separate aprons which she wears for different tasks. All areas are cleaned daily and toys are regularly cleaned. Children help to clean outdoor equipment and toys.

Children have healthy food and drink. They have easy access to drinks of water which are kept out for them to help themselves. They have nutritious snacks of fruit including mangoes, kiwi fruit and grapes. They bring packed lunches which are stored safely in the appropriate fridge. The childminder respects children's dietary needs. She ensures that a vegetarian child does not have any meat products and stores halal foods separately. Children are learning about healthy eating as they taste new types of fruit and talk about what is good for them.

Children are protected highly effectively from illness and infection. The childminder has a current first aid qualification. She carries a first aid kit on outings and also has a fully stocked kit at home. She has a first aid book for reference. She has a detailed sickness policy which includes a 24 hour exclusion period for sickness and diarrhoea. She also has a detailed accident and emergency policy which outlines what procedures she will follow if a child has an accident. Children are helped to keep fit through regular exercise. They play in the spacious garden, walk to school and the shops and do action songs and dancing indoors.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children's understanding of personal safety is greatly enhanced by the childminder's clear explanations. She discusses why only adults may use sharp knives and why children must be careful when carrying something heavy. Children are learning about how to dial 999 and they take part in regular fire drills so that they know what to do in an emergency situation.

Children can move about the setting safely due to highly effective measures. The childminder has gone round the house at child level to identify possible risks and taken positive steps to reduce these. For example, she has fitted corner protectors on the coffee table and used safety film on low glass. The house provides a safe environment for children with all hazardous items out of their reach and smoke detectors on both floors. The childminder has a visitors' book in order to monitor visitors to the premises and also has a missing child policy. She has detailed procedures to follow in the case of an emergency and has a named emergency contact who holds contact numbers for all of the parents.

Children's safety outside and on outings is significantly enhanced due to the childminder's vigilance. Children are directly supervised at all times and the childminder has ensured that the garden does not pose any risk to children. It is fully enclosed, has no standing water and there are no poisonous plants. Part of the fencing has recently been replaced to ensure children's safety. Children have appropriate car seats for their age and size. Young children wear reins when walking and the childminder agrees a meeting place with older children in case they become lost. She ensures that younger children carry emergency contact details on outings in case they become separated.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's sound understanding of child protection issues. She has a comprehensive understanding of the possible indicators of abuse. She knows what to do if she has concerns about a child and has previous experience of making a referral. She informs parents of her duty to refer any concerns about a child in her care and keeps a record of existing injuries.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive in a warm and loving environment. Children have a close relationship with the childminder who cares for them with genuine enthusiasm. She offers cuddles and plenty of praise and encouragement. For example, she claps and tells a child how clever they are when they make a play dough model. As a result children are confident and self assured. They move around the setting with confidence and can relate well to one another and to adults. They are learning to operate independently as they help to fetch the fruit at snack time and a child proudly states that they do not need help with the play dough.

Children have excellent opportunities to make choices. They have easy access to an extensive and attractive range of toys. Resources are stored in boxes, buckets and a large storage unit to enable children to help themselves. Children are also offered choices within more structured activities. For example, the childminder offers a choice of coloured card for a collage activity and asks which book children would like to look at.

Children benefit from a stimulating balance of free play and planned activities. They follow a daily routine that includes art activities, music sessions and story time. They particularly enjoy role play and playing with small world figures. They also enjoy cooking and helped to make a gingerbread train at Christmas. They regularly meet up with other minded children which helps them to develop their social skills.

Children are learning through their play and through discussion with the childminder. They are encouraged to identify shapes and colours and to talk about what a kiwi fruit feels like. They count how many plates they need and estimate how many pieces of fruit they will eat. The childminder has a sound understanding of how children can learn through play and how to challenge them appropriately.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children actively contribute to the setting. They go to fetch the glue and aprons before a collage activity and take their plates into the kitchen after snack time. They are very good at tidying away their toys and know where resources are stored.

Children have positive relationships with one another. They interact well together in activities such as role play and share the play dough with one another. They show consideration for each other. For example, a child tells the childminder to give a piece of fruit to another child. They are well behaved. They remember to say thank you and follow instruction well. They are learning to share and take turns as the childminder explains that if they ask nicely others will be happy to swap toys. Children's behaviour is managed highly effectively. The childminder acts as a good role model at all times and offers lavish praise when children behave well. She tells them how proud she is of their behaviour. She makes effective use of strategies including distraction, discussion and removal from the situation.

Children are learning about wider society. The childminder embraces the different cultures of the minded children and their families. She acknowledges their festivals and times of celebration and respects children's dietary needs. Children play with an excellent range of resources that promote diversity. These include ethnic dolls in national costume, puzzles, books and small word figures with disabilities. The childminder does not currently care for any children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities but has previously worked in a specialist school. She has a sound awareness of the importance of working with parents and other agencies to ensure that children's specific needs are fully met.

Children benefit from an excellent working relationship between the parents and the childminder. In addition to daily discussion about the children's welfare the childminder keeps a detailed written diary which she shares with the parents. She also welcomes calls from parents during the day so that she can reassure them about their children's wellbeing. She has a Parent Partnership policy which acknowledges that parents know their child best. She has received glowing references from parents who have commented on her diligence in meeting individual needs and on the caring, loving and sensitive way in which she cares for children.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from a particularly well organised environment. The childminder has had an extension built to provide children with a dedicated playroom and downstairs toilet facilities. They also use the rest of the ground floor so have plenty of play space. The environment is welcoming with colourful displays of the children's work and music playing in the background. There is child- sized furniture and plenty of storage space. Toys are stored in buckets, boxes and a large wall storage system so that children can easily access what they want to play with.

Children benefit from the childminder's experience and training. She has been a childminder for 13 years and has a wealth of experience on which she draws to enhance children's care and education. She has a current first aid qualification and has recently attended training on the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Children's welfare is enhanced through the keeping of all necessary records, policies and procedures. The childminder keeps an accurate record of daily attendance and keeps records of accidents and any medication given. She has drawn up a detailed policy document which covers a variety of issues including sickness, equal opportunities and complaints. Parents sign to confirm that they have read these.

Overall the provider 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 that accident and medication records were kept separately. The childminder now keeps these records in separate books. This has improved the organisation of the provision and, therefore, enhances children's wellbeing.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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