



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	221976
Inspection date	06 February 2006
Inspector	Denise May Smith

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 July 1988. She lives with her husband in Cambridgeshire. The whole 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding one child under 5 years all day and three children over 5 years before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and nurturing environment. The childminder's practice is based on good policies and procedures, which promote the physical, nutritional and health needs of children in her care. Children develop an appropriate knowledge and understanding of good hygiene practice as they wash their hands at appropriate times. This, together with appropriate cleaning procedures helps to prevent cross infection. Children are becoming increasingly independent as they take more responsibility for their personal care when using the lavatory.

The childminder consults parents and children about their food preferences and dietary requirements. The children's parents provide the main meals and a range of snacks appropriate for both the younger and older children are provided as necessary during the day. Younger children are provided with drinks at appropriate times; older children access drinks as they wish.

Children develop good physical skills as they freely access a range of toys and equipment both indoors and outdoors. The childminder is skilled in providing toys and equipment suitable to the ages of the children in her care. She has an understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and weaves this into her care. As a result babies and toddlers are becoming more confident and explore their surroundings with ease.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, clean, warm and child friendly environment. They are able to move around freely and play happily in comfort. Older children can play knowing that the younger children's safety is considered. The provision is well resourced with good quality furniture, toys and equipment, which allows children to experience active and quiet activities. Toys and play materials are stored in child-height storage units. This enables children to make independent choices. Toys are developmentally appropriate and in good condition.

The childminder is vigilant and gives gentle prompts and reminders to children about various aspects of safety. This helps children to learn about keeping themselves safe such as introducing the 'Green Cross Code' when on outings. Children are generally protected on and off the premises, however, the keys are left in the front door which compromises their safety.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection issues and is able to recognise signs of abuse. She would always follow the procedures set out in the booklet "What to Do If". These procedures are based on the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures. The childminder's knowledge of these procedures enhances the overall safety of children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children make good progress because they are well supported and have access to many new experiences. They have good relationships with the childminder. She is a skilled carer, as a result children engage in stimulating and purposeful play.

The childminder dedicates much time to listening and talking to children, as a result children feel valued and fully included. She is effective in meeting their individual needs, because of this; children are confident and gain new skills. Children make decisions about what they want to play with, teaching them to be independent.

Children have very good opportunities to develop early language and mathematical understanding, through the many routine activities provided. They enjoy stimulating experiences indoors and outdoors. All children benefit from play opportunities within the wider community, where they begin to make sense of the world. Children are encouraged and supported with regard to expressing themselves through a range of creative activities. They are inquisitive and have good imaginative and creative skills, which they demonstrate through role play, creating pictures and musical activities.

The childminder knows the children well. She seeks information about the children from parents about their likes and dislikes and then introduces new toys, activities and opportunities appropriate to their needs. Children benefit from the challenging environment, which offers lots of fun.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the homely environment created by the childminder. Children's work is displayed, this makes them feel valued and at home. They learn about their local community and the wider world through a range of activities and outings, such as to the park and local shops. All children are fully included and enjoy playing with a range of resources and activities that reflect our diverse society. She is able to recognise and support children with special educational needs.

Children receive lots of praise and encouragement for their achievements, which makes them feel proud and promotes their self-esteem. As a result they are happy and confident. The positive relationships formed between parents and the childminder help children to feel secure. The childminder provides continuity of care for children as she exchanges a wealth of information with parents, which she uses to ensure their individual needs are met. Most relevant information is shared with parents, in a variety of ways, which ensures they are well informed regarding the care and progress of their children. Children benefit greatly from this positive relationship.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children make good progress in the care of this childminder, who is well-organised and child-focused. The childminder is effective in planning and organising the daily routines for children. She ensures the play area is safe and interesting, which enables children to move around freely and access the vast range of toys and resources independently.

Good record keeping ensures children's details are up-to-date and therefore their individual needs met effectively. Written policies and procedures are consistently applied, reviewed and shared with parents. The childminder is motivated and committed to providing good quality care for children, she is able to do this as she has a sound knowledge and understanding of the care standards, the 'Birth to three matters' framework and has completed the quality first training.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to undertake an appropriate first aid training course. This has been completed and therefore the safety of the children cared for has been improved.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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 that children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised
- ensure that when labelling children's work and toy boxes that lower case letters are used.

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