

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 116922
Inspection date 11 February 2008
Inspector Tracy Bartholomew

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 1999. She lives with her husband and two children aged four and nine in Reading, Berkshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder attends toddler group, goes for walks, school pick-ups and a variety of after school clubs.

The childminder is registered for five children at any one time and is currently minding four children who attend on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is effectively promoted through the childminder's good practice, she ensures that the home is clean and tidy and conforms to healthy and safety legislation. Children are learning every day good hygiene practices such as hand washing, and catching their coughs

as these are encouraged and gentle reminders are used. Routines such as these minimise the spread of infection.

Children learn about healthy options when it comes to food and drink as this is actively promoted by the childminder. She offers them a good selection of fruit and vegetables with each meal and at snack times. Children understand how food is grown as the childminder grows a wide range of fruit and vegetables in her allotment. The children help out collecting the produce from there. These learning opportunities teach the children how to promote their own good health and making healthy choices with regard to their diet. Most documentation is in place to support the children's good health, however some accident records have not been maintained. Children who have allergies or specific dietary needs have these met well as the childminder fully records and adheres to parents' requests.

Children's physical development is encouraged as they undertake regular exercise in the park and garden. In addition to this they visit a variety of after school activities such as swimming, dance and trampoline which allows the children's gross motor skills to be developed when balancing on the beams and playing on the bouncy castles.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious and well-organised environment. This ensures that they are able to move around and play freely within a safe environment. Children benefit from a range of safety measures, for example locks on the cupboards and windows, stair gates are available. The doors are securely locked and there is a secure outdoor play area. An emergency evacuation procedure is in place, which the childminder devised to safeguard the children in her care, which includes what would happen if the childminder became ill.

Children choose and self select from a wide range of suitable and safe toys and resources. These are rotated and children are fully aware of what is available, which assist their development and maintains their interest within their ongoing learning. The childminder regularly cleans and checks all of her resources and toys daily to ensure there is no damage, which ensures the children play and learn with toys that are safe and suitable. The childminder fully understands her role in child protection, she is aware of the potential signs of child abuse and neglect. All documentation is in place to guide her if she had a concern, to ensure that the appropriate procedures are followed to maintain the children's safety and welfare whilst in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are confident and at ease within the childminder's home. They clearly enjoy their time at the home and play exceptionally well with the wide range of educational toys, books and resources available. The childminder is dedicated to her work and ensures all equipment is available to maximise the children's play, learning and development to ensure that the children feel welcome and confident within the surroundings. Children have very exceptional relationships with the childminder, and with each other, they interact well with each and share their experiences of the day, such as what they have done at school and their views on how they could further their investigations on the boat at school. The childminder is extremely knowledgeable of all the children's developmental requirements and needs and is excellent at ensuring they receive the appropriate support.

The children make choices about what they would like to do and enjoy the privacy of playing in the childminder's son's room with the Lego, where together they use the figure to carry out their imaginative games. They enjoy a wide range of curriculum based and creative activities such as, collages of rivers and nature, they do a variety of cooking where they learn to make butter and experiment with fresh ingredients from the allotment. The children also enjoy creative activities like making spiders from Africa, looking at flags and researching countries; which as a result ensures the children are continually developing their knowledge and expanding their all round development skills. Children confidently select purposeful items to play with from the comprehensive range available. They know the daily routine, and what clubs they are attending that night which makes them feel secure, and fully comprehend the rules for example, sitting at the table at snack time. Children receive an exemplary amount of praise and encouragement from the childminder, which they relish in and promotes their self-esteem and confidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children receive a high level of individual attention and are treated equally on a daily basis, to ensure that their individual personalities and preferences are well maintained throughout the day. The childminder has a good range of toys and resources that reflect the wider world and promotes equal opportunities. This helps the children to develop a positive attitude to others. The childminder has a good understanding of additional needs and how she can support children in her care, she has a good selection of books and resources to enable her to have up to date knowledge and understanding to meet the needs of all children.

Children's behaviour is managed effectively and sensitively, as the childminder makes good use of discussion to ensure the children understand how their behaviour makes others feel. Older children are given time to resolve their differences before the childminder intervenes. This assists with the children's negotiating skills, whilst learning how to resolve issues for themselves, which in turn enables them to become successful at maintaining relationships.

Children benefit from excellent relationship which the childminder has developed with their parents. Parents are thoroughly informed for their children's day and time is set aside each day for discussion. They use a daily diary which positively ensures that the parents are fully informed about the day and care their children have received and maintains the continuity of care daily.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of all the needs of the children attending and promotes positive outcomes for children. She understands her responsibilities for protecting children from persons who have not been police-checked. Her home and time are well organised for childminding purposes, which allows her provide all children with individual attention. The daily attendance register is in place which enables her to maintain the ratio well. Most of the required documentation relating to the care of the children is in place and stored securely. The childminder ensures the children's records are updated regularly, which enables her to maintain their individual care. 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 asked to provide a sick child policy to be shared with parents and to ensure the contents of the first aid box are checked frequently and replaced as necessary. The childminder has ensured that her policies and procedures, maintain the children's health, by updating her documentation available for parents and regularly checking her first aid kit, to ensure that she has suitable equipment required in the event of an accident.

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 that all accidents, incident and medication records are 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