

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	105468
Inspection date	27 March 2008
Inspector	Margaret Davie

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 was registered in 1992 and has been minding children since 1984. She lives with her husband and adult son in Slough. The whole of the ground floor 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 one and one child under five full-time as well as two children under five part-time. The childminder attends local toddler groups and runs a childminder's drop in session once a week. The family has a pet dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive in the care of the childminder. They follow very effective routines in her warm and very clean home, which help them to learn the importance of good hygiene. They wash their hands thoroughly before and after eating and after using the toilet. For example, a child automatically washes her hands after using the toilet, a routine she is clearly familiar with, and

dries her hands on her individual hand towel, which keeps the spread of germs to a minimum. Babies' hands are regularly wiped with wet wipes and nappies are changed hygienically and immediately disposed of in order to prevent any cross infection. Through discussion, children learn the importance of holding their hand in front of their mouth when coughing and are warmly praised when they remember to do so.

Children receive excellent care in the case of a minor accident or illness. The childminder ensures she keeps her first aid training updated and records accidents and administrations of medicines in accordance with requirements. Parents are always asked to countersign these entries in her record books, which promotes children's continuity of care.

Children enjoy an excellent range of activities which contribute to their good health. There are plenty of opportunities each day which help them develop control of their bodies, for example, visits to the local park or toddler groups or play with toys such as the Little Tykes car and bikes in the childminder's own secure garden.

Children's dietary needs are very well met as they receive nutritious food which is either sent from home or freshly prepared by the childminder. Meals are very well balanced to provide plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables and drinks are always available to ensure children do not become too thirsty. For example, all children enjoyed a snack of fresh grapes, including the baby who was carefully helped to just suck out the juice. Parents of babies prepare and send food from home to ensure it meets their child's individual needs. Babies receive regular meals, snacks and drinks to make sure they are well nourished and they have very good opportunities to be active and rest according to their own needs. In good weather they occasionally sleep in the childminder's secure garden, safely harnessed into their pushchair. This ensures they receive plenty of fresh air, which contributes significantly to their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are made very welcome in the childminder's home, which is exceptionally well organised to provide them with space to play safely, freely and independently. The ground floor of the childminder's home is used exclusively for minding children and comprises of a play room, dining room, shower room and utility area with access to the fully enclosed garden. Risks are clearly identified, both indoors and outdoors, and minimised to protect children's safety. For example, cords which operate window blinds are hooked up out of the way to ensure children cannot hurt themselves. Children learn to keep themselves safe through gentle reminders from the childminder, such as not to run indoors and about road safety while on outings. Fire safety precautions are in place and the childminder's home has been safety checked by the fire brigade. Evacuation procedures have been drawn up to protect children and these are regularly practised to ensure they know what to expect in an emergency.

Children play with an excellent range of resources which are appropriate for their ages and stages of development. These are kept very clean and regularly checked to ensure they remain suitable for children to use. Resources are stored at a low height so that they can be easily accessed by children. Children are kept safe in their daily routines by a very good range of good quality equipment, such as high chairs, a travel cot and appropriate car seats and buggies for outings. The childminder carries a notice in her car indicating she is carrying minded children and keeps parents' contact numbers stored on her mobile phone for emergencies. Children also wear wrist bands with her telephone contact number while on outings, for their safety.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a very clear understanding of child protection procedures in line with local Safeguarding Children Board's guidelines. She has recently attended child protection training to ensure her knowledge and practice remains up to date and has local authority referral numbers available should she ever have a concern about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy in the care of the childminder. They learn and make excellent progress through the wide variety of activities which the childminder offers, for example, singing songs together and modelling with play dough, which promotes their creative development. They develop their independence and express their personal preferences by self-selecting from the very good range of toys which they clearly enjoy playing with. For example, when playing with the very up to date cash register, which has facilities to allow payment with a toy credit card. This gives them experience of the world around them.

Children feel confident and valued because the childminder is very kind and affectionate with them, giving them plenty of hugs, which pleases them. She spends time talking to them about what they are doing and involving herself in their play and as a result they receive very good support. For example, a young child gains an awareness of herself by naming and pointing to parts of her body, such as her head, nose and feet. Outings include visits to local parks and toddler groups, which provide opportunities for children to socialise. The childminder has a very good understanding of how young children learn and this supports their learning and development very well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very well known and treated as individuals. As a result they feel valued and develop a high level of self confidence in the childminder's environment. She has a clear understanding of equal opportunities and ensures that all children are fully included in the range of opportunities she provides. She provides an excellent variety of activities and resources to encourage children to adopt a positive view of the wider world, such as playing with dolls depicting children of different cultures or depicting people with a range of disabilities.

Children behave very well and go about their daily routines with growing confidence. Clear expectations and consistent boundaries help them develop a sense of right and wrong as they follow simple house rules which encourage them to be kind to one another and play harmoniously. Children respond very well to the childminder's very positive approach to behaviour management, which takes account of their age and stage of development.

Relationships with parents are excellent. The childminder provides them with very detailed information about daily events as well as monthly progress reports to keep them fully informed. She shares her policies and procedures with them to promote children's continuity of care and asks parents for feedback to ensure they are happy with the care provided for their children. These questionnaires show that parents are particularly pleased with the loving, family atmosphere in which children are cared for and the range of fun and interesting activities that are offered to them.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's needs are very effectively met by the childminder. She has many years experience of caring for young children and attends regular training to keep her practice up to date. She organises the space on the ground floor of her house very well to provide a very welcoming and stimulating area for children to play and learn. She has a high regard for children's safety, identifying and minimising any risks and as a result, they play in a safe environment and feel very secure and confident. Children are offered an excellent range of experiences which promote their development in all areas.

All required documentation is in place for the care of children and ratios are always observed to ensure children receive a high level of adult support. Attendance records are properly maintained and accurately reflect children's hours of attendance. The childminder organises her paper work very well and keeps a very good amount of relevant information to help her provide excellent care for the children she minds. An on-going, two way flow of information between parents and the childminder ensures children's continuity of care is very well promoted. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that parents sign to acknowledge all administrations of medicine. She was also asked to obtain local child protection guidelines and to set up a method of recording incidents.

Children's good health and continuity of care is now very well promoted as the childminder ensures parents are always asked to countersign medication records. Children's welfare is very well safeguarded as the childminder had obtained procedures in line with local Safeguarding Children Boards and has developed a method to record any incidents.

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