

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY363974
Inspection date	11 June 2008
Inspector	Anne Schurek
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 was registered in 2007. She lives with her husband and two children aged 17 months and five years in Sandy, Bedfordshire. The whole ground floor, apart from the office, 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 four children at any one time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family have no pets. The childminder can support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children become aware of sound personal hygiene procedures as the childminder encourages hand washing following use of the toilet, before meals and after playing in the garden. Children are aware of the effects of germs and what happens to their bodies as this is explained to them by the childminder. Older children are able to independently use the bathroom. The children are protected from cross-infection as there is a sound nappy changing procedure in place.

The childminder has appropriate systems in place to document accidental injury and medication administered in line with National Standard requirements. She holds a current first aid qualification. However, the childminder has not obtained permission from parents to seek emergency medical treatment or advice to fully ensure that children's health and safety is not compromised.

Children benefit from a healthy diet provided by the childminder such as salad, lasagne, yogurts and fresh fruit. She ensures that she is aware of allergies and other special dietary requirements so that children's individual needs are met. They have access to drinks at any time and the childminder monitors this to ensure that they remain hydrated. Children walk to and from school daily benefiting from fresh air and exercise. Regular visits to the park and toddler groups provides children with opportunities to practise their skills as they use large play equipment such as slides and push a long toys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and generally safe environment and are therefore able to move around independently. The childminder is aware of the risks, both in and outside of the house and has taken steps in minimising these, such as putting a safety gate on stairs and having electric socket safety covers in place. However, children's safety could be compromised as they have access to low level unmarked glass and the practising of the emergency escape plan with children has not taken place, so they are not learning what to do in an emergency situation.

Children are able to independently self-select activities from a range of toys and resources. The childminder supervises this choice ensuring that they are safe and appropriate for the children's ages and stages of development. Children are protected from harm due to the childminder's clear understanding of safeguarding children procedures and her duty to protect children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and secure in the childminder's home. They develop their confidence as they initiate their own play and explore an easily accessible range of play resources. The childminder ensures that she provides a balanced day taking into account the needs of the children. Children have opportunities to play indoors and outdoors and take part in regular trips into the local community visiting the Zoo and Thurleigh Farm.

Children have appropriate relationships with the childminder, they are warm and affectionate together and enjoy each other's company. Children's language and thinking is developed as the childminder spends much time talking to and extending their play. For example, encouraging the babies to reach out for a toy supporting them to crawl and verbally encouraging and praising their efforts. They share games and activities together on the floor and take turns to play with balls, rattles and musical toys.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They are treated with equal concern and receive appropriate individual care because their needs are known to the childminder. However, there are limited opportunities and resources to promote children's learning about the wider world. Children learn about their local community as they walk to and from school, visit friends and local shops and parks. The childminder has an open attitude to welcoming children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities though she does not currently care for any children with special needs.

The children's behaviour is good and they are encouraged to play well together, sharing and taking turns. They are set consistent boundaries so that they know what is expected of them. The childminder has an effective understanding of behaviour management and appropriate methods to use.

The childminder has a positive working relationship with parents. Children's needs are met as the childminder takes account of parents' wishes. Parents are kept informed of their children's development through verbal daily updates of the day's events. Most parental consents are in place which generally contributes to the children's well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall, the needs of all children are met. Children are relaxed and comfortable in a welcoming environment. The organisation of space, flexible routine and support offered by the childminder helps encourage children's confidence and independence to initiate play and explore their surroundings according to their age. They regularly access the garden for fresh air and physical activities. Play resources are safe and easily accessible for children to independently access and self-select.

Children's welfare is promoted because their details and personal information are accurately recorded. The childminder ensures that all records are accessible but are also stored securely and confidentially. Most written permissions are in place to support children's individual care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- obtain written parental permission for children to receive emergency medical treatment or advice
- ensure that the low level glass in the unit doors are made safe
- ensure that an emergency escape plan is practised
- improve the toy resources to reflect equality of opportunity and children's understanding of the wider world

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