



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	222278
Inspection date	30 January 2006
Inspector	Emma Bright

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 1992. She lives with her grown-up children in a residential area of Cambridge. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and children can sleep upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 5 children at any one time and is currently minding children under 5, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has no pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted because the childminder has an effective approach to health and hygiene and reduces the risk of cross-infection by ensuring that her home is clean and well maintained. Children learn about the importance of staying healthy through the childminder's support and guidance; they wash their hands before meals. Clear procedures and records are in place to ensure that appropriate medical care is given if children are unwell whilst they are in the care of the childminder and this ensures that children's individual needs are met.

Children understand the benefits of a healthy diet as the childminder has a sound understanding of nutrition. Children are suitably nourished and enjoy healthy snacks provided by the childminder, and they know about food that is good for them. Children have free access to regular drinks so that they remain well hydrated. Babies' individual routines are followed and they are fed according to parents' wishes, so that they are well nourished.

All children learn to lead a healthy lifestyle; they enjoy regular exercise, such as outings to the local park and playing in the garden, and all children benefit from the fresh air on their daily walks. The childminder has developed good routines so that all children can sleep when they need to and this ensures that they are well rested.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe home where risks are identified and minimised and this means children can move around safely and freely. Children are well supervised at all times, which means they safely develop their independence in a secure environment. Children learn how to keep themselves safe because the childminder explains about the dangers, both indoors and on outings. Children's safety in case of fire is priority. For example, smoke alarms are checked regularly to ensure they are in good working order and the childminder has a written emergency escape plan. However, children do not practise the emergency escape plan regularly so that they all know what to do in an emergency and are familiar with the routine.

Children independently select activities from a good range of quality toys and resources, which are appropriate for their age and stage of development. Resources have been carefully chosen to support children's play and are regularly checked for hygiene and safety. The good organisation of toys and activities means that children can follow their own interests and develop their play.

All required documents and procedures are in place and are well maintained to safeguard children's welfare. For example, the childminder has appropriate consent for outings from parents. The childminder has a secure knowledge of child protection procedures, which are in line with those set out by the local Area Child Protection

Committee. This means that children are protected and kept safe from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well in the childminder's house. They confidently make themselves at home and form warm relationships with the childminder and each other, which contributes to their sense of belonging. Children enjoy a good range of activities and experiences. For example, they attend local groups, which provides children with many opportunities to socialise with others. Resources are organised so they are accessible and children explore them independently, making their own decisions and developing their own interests. For example, they enjoy role play, re-enacting familiar scenarios such as 'making the dinner' and providing lots of 'cups of tea' for the adults.

Children benefit from the consistent daily routines, which helps them to settle and feel secure. They enjoy lots of positive interaction with the childminder, who offers them good support during their activities, which encourages them to develop their skills. For example, children's early communication skills develop through the good quality and sensitive interaction with the childminder, who responds positively to their talk. All children spend their time purposefully engaged in their activities. The childminder has a good understanding of child development and uses the 'Birth to three matters' framework as a reference tool. This secure knowledge enables her to help children develop and make good progress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs are understood by the childminder, who gathers good information from parents and to ensure these needs are well met. Children have access to a good range of activities and resources, which help children to learn about their differences and similarities. They play with small world figures and role play equipment that represent all members of society, helping them to learn about the world they live in. The childminder helps children to become confident and develop their self-esteem through lots of positive interaction.

Children behave well and learn what is expected of them through regular routines and consistent expectations. For example, they always sit at the table to eat and say 'please' and 'thank you'. The childminder explains what she expects them to do in a way that they can understand and listens to their views so that they feel respected and valued. Children play happily together, sharing and taking turns with the support of the childminder, who helps them to understand how their behaviour affects others.

Children benefit from the positive relationships between the childminder and their parents, which contributes to their care and well-being, ensuring their changing needs continue to be met. Parents know about the childminder's practice as good written information is shared with them. Written feedback from parents demonstrates

their high regard for the childminder's practice in caring for their children. Children benefit from a good settling in procedure, which helps them to make the transition between home and the childminder's home. Parents are kept very well informed of their child's routines and progress on a daily basis.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's needs are met by the childminder, who has lots of experience of working with children. They benefit from the good organisation of time, space and resources, which helps them to make good progress. Well established routines and affectionate, caring support ensure children are comfortable and settled. Children's needs are met by good adult-child ratios; the children benefit from the individual care and attention offered by the childminder. Children's care is enhanced as the childminder has a sound knowledge of child development.

All legal documentation is in place and regularly updated to ensure children's safety and well-being. Records are shared with parents so they know what to expect and can be confident their children receive appropriate care. Although parents know about the childminder's practice, it could be further improved by making policies and procedures more accessible to them. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved the range of activities for older children and they now have access to a good range stimulating resources, which are challenging and help them to make good progress.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004. 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

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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 the emergency escape plan is practised regularly
- continue to improve written policies and procedures about the childminding practice.

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