

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY335916
Inspection date	15 July 2008
Inspector	Anne Jeanette Faithfull

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 2006. She lives with her partner and son aged five years in Bracknell, Berkshire. The whole of the first floor flat is used for childminding. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children and she is currently caring for three children on a part time basis. The family has two guinea pigs and some fish. The childminder collects children from local schools and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to learn the importance of following good hygiene procedures and are encouraged by the childminder to follow good hygiene practices for example, washing their hands before snack and after using the toilet. The childminder has posters displayed on the bathroom door to remind children to wash their hands; this further promotes children's understanding of hygiene issues. The childminder makes sure all the family pets are in good health and do not pose a risk to children. Children's health is assured in an emergency situation because parents have given written permission for her to obtain emergency medical treatment

and advice. Minor accidents are dealt with appropriately as the childminder has a first aid certificate. The childminder has a range of policies and procedures in place to promote children's health including a safe sun policy which identifies the steps she will take to protect children when out in the sun.

Children have opportunities to develop their physical skills through a variety of different activities, including outings to local parks where they climb on the apparatus and use the balance boards. The childminder is aware children need to have drinks so they do not become de-hydrated and ensures children can access drinks when they require. Children benefit from eating healthy snacks and meals for instance; the childminder provides sandwiches and soup for the children and asks them what food they would like for their lunch. Special dietary needs are recorded and met. Children are given the opportunity to rest and relax when they require, especially after a busy day at school.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are warm, welcoming and well maintained. Children are very settled and happy within the home. They move freely around all areas identified for childminding and confidently select the toys and resources they wish to use. Toys are readily available and this ensures children are able to make free choices about what they wish to play with. This enables children to develop their independence skills.

All areas used by children are informally risk assessed and any hazards are addressed. For example, the childminder uses a range of equipment and procedures to ensure the children are safe, such as a stair gates to limit access to the kitchen and a fire blanket, smoke alarms and a fire guard. The childminder regularly practises the fire evacuation procedure to inform the children of the steps they should take in the event of an emergency and her fire plan is displayed for parents and visitors to her home to see.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the procedures to follow should she have concerns regarding a child in her care. All of the required documentation to seek advice and refer concerns is in place. This ensures children's welfare at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder is warm and affectionate making children feel comfortable and valued. The children are becoming independent in making choices about how to spend their time and the childminder provides a range of activities to promote their early development. The childminder sits on the floor with the children helping them to build towers out of Lego offering support praise and encouragement when appropriate.

Children enjoy imaginative play as they play with the dinosaurs on the activity mat and the childminder encourages them to count the number of dinosaurs, helping to promote their understanding of number. They also talk about the names of the dinosaurs and their size.

Children have good opportunities to develop their creativity as they make rockets out of cardboard boxes and the childminder provides a range of art activities such as life size and finger painting. Children thoroughly enjoy having an indoor picnic and meeting up with another

childminder to socialise with other children. The childminder displays lots of photos around her home of the children taking part in a range of activities such as, a visit to the farm.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder is warm and affectionate making children feel comfortable and valued. She has a sound relationship with the children, enjoys their company and knows them well. The childminder encourages children to begin to gain knowledge of the wider world as she provides books for the children to look at and colour in which reflect different cultures however, she currently does not have any other resources to reflect diversity for the children to use. Children enjoy celebrating Halloween together where some children dress up as spiders and children's birthdays are celebrated; this gives the children a sense of belonging. Children are beginning to be aware of their local community as the childminder takes them to local parks and visits a local farm with them

The childminder uses effective strategies to encourage good behaviour which include offering praise and encouragement at all times. Parents are informed of the strategies she has in place. The children readily respond to any request from her and help to tidy away the toys when required. The childminder has a good relationship with the parents and a daily diary is used to inform them about their child's day.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's needs are met through the effective use of space and resources. Children receive appropriate levels of support from the childminder and are relaxed in the homely environment. The childminder understands the importance of maintaining documentation in a confidential manner and all regulatory documentation is in place. The childminder has put a new complaints procedure in place which she shares with the parents; however this does not include the address of Ofsted. The childminder keeps Ofsted informed of any changes to her household so relevant checks can be completed to ensure no persons who are not vetted are in contact with the children. The childminder has recently attended first aid and The Early Years Foundation Stage training to further promote children's welfare and development and increase her knowledge. 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 complete an appropriate first aid course and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical treatment and advice, to ensure all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible; to keep a record of children's times of attendance, develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection and the new complaints procedure, including making parents aware of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint.

The childminder has made major improvements to her record keeping and has further developed her policies and procedures in place to meet all the regulations. All were available to see at the inspection. Children's times of attendance are now recorded. She has completed a first aid course and obtained written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment in the event of an emergency. She has developed her knowledge and understanding of child protection and has also put in place a complaints procedure relating to the National

Standards which she shares with the parents, so they are aware of the procedure to follow should they have a complaint. These measures taken further protect the children in her care.

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 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):

- continue to increase the resources to reflect positive images of diversity
- include the contact address of Ofsted in the complaints procedure

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