

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY359775
Inspection date	01 May 2008
Inspector	Melissa Cox
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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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 in a three bed-roomed house in the Oakridge area of Basingstoke. The whole house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for six children under the age of eight years and she currently cares for eight children on a part time basis. The childminder also provides overnight care. The family have a dog and rabbits.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows suitable health and hygiene procedures, such as when nappy changing, and ensures that the home is kept very clean and hygienic. Children are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through the daily routine and wash their hands at appropriate times. The majority of relevant documentation with regard to health, including specific dietary needs, is in place. For example, a clear sickness policy ensures that children with contagious illnesses or conditions are not cared for by the childminder. Accident

and medication records are available and are signed by parents. Although these measures are in place to support children's health, the childminder has failed to obtain a first aid certificate. This impacts significantly on children's good health should an emergency arise.

Children have healthy food and drink. They have easy access to drinks of water and juice which are kept out at all times. They enjoy snacks of fruit and plain biscuits and the childminder ensures that their meals include plenty of fruit, vegetables, dairy products and wholemeal foods. The childminder consults parents to find out if children have any dietary needs and keeps a daily record of what children have eaten which she shares with parents.

Children have regular opportunities to enjoy physical activity. For example, when walking to school or playing on the swings in the play park. They also have access to a good range of outdoor physical play equipment in the garden. Children rest and sleep according to their needs and individual routines and the childminder is well aware of individual sleeping patterns and preferences, such as which children like a dummy or a blanket to help them get to sleep.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The environment is clean, warm and welcoming. Children have access to a varied range of toys, which they can change when they wish, and choose different play materials from the storage areas which are inviting and at child height. The childminder ensures that resources are safe and suitable for children's use by taking account of their age and development when planning what resources to make available and when checking play items for any damage.

The childminder has taken action to ensure that risks in and outside her home have been minimised so that children can play safely. She explains how she helps children to learn about their own safety through discussions about road safety. Steps are taken to ensure that children are kept safe when playing outdoors and when on outings. For example, appropriate car seats and restraints are used to protect children when travelling in the car.

Children are well protected as the childminder understands her role in relation to child protection issues and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. She demonstrates a good understanding of the different areas of abuse and of possible signs.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, settled and content in the childminder's care. The childminder builds a close and loving relationship with the children, ensuring they become confident and gain self-esteem. They are encouraged to follow their own routines regarding sleep, play and activities times and meals. Children are involved in a good range of activities that cover all areas of development. For example, they enjoy building with construction items, they play with activity and musical toys and enjoy role play with small world toys and accessories.

Children have good opportunities to make choices. A varied range of age-appropriate toys are kept out at low level so that even babies can make decisions about what they want to play with. The childminder also rotates the toys available to ensure that children's choice is not restricted. She uses the library and toy library to further extend the range of resources available.

Children enjoy activities such as arts and crafts, singing, making music and role play. They regularly visit toddler groups and go on outings. They are learning through play as the childminder asks a child the different colours of the crayons they are using and encourages him to colour in his snail picture. Children have opportunities to learn about the wider world for example, collecting leaves and snails from the garden, to explore and later on copy their shapes onto pictures.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder is very aware that children have individual needs, and she endeavours to meet them in her daily provision. Children are learning about wider society. They use a wide variety of resources that promote diversity including dolls, books, small word figures and dressing up clothes. Parents are asked to complete an individual needs form for each child which asks for information about any cultural or religious needs.

Children have positive relationships with one another. The childminder is able to use a good range of strategies when helping children to behave well. She demonstrates a calm and positive manner with the children and helps them to begin to understand about sharing and taking turns, with appropriate explanations.

Children benefit from the close working partnership the childminder builds with parents. Parents are kept very well informed of their children's progress and daily activities. The childminder completes daily diaries and exchanges information informally at the end of each day. Contract agreements with parents are in place plus various consent forms and parents receive some written information about the provision.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Most documents and records required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available. However, the childminder has failed to obtain a first aid qualification, which impacts on children's good health. As a result, overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Children do however, benefit from an organised environment. They use both the sitting room, dining room and upstairs playroom which provide appropriate play space. These areas are welcoming, with colourful child-sized furniture and toys set out on open shelving and on the floor for easy access by young children. Careful planning ensures that children can access a wide range of enjoyable activities and that routines take account of pick up and drop off times for children attending schools or pre-schools. The childminder has regard for the wellbeing of all children and they receive good adult support and attention.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure a suitable first aid course is completed

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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