

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY361992
Inspection date	22 July 2008
Inspector	Linda Dawe
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 2007. She lives with her school aged child in Tavistock. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed decking area for outside play. The family currently have five rabbits, two cats and a hamster.

The childminder offers a flexible childminding service seven days a week and can offer overnight care for one child. She currently has 12 children on roll aged between 10-months-old and 11-years-old.

The childminder is able to take and collect children from local schools. Children are also taken to the local parent and toddler group, library, play park and on outings. She is an active member of the local childminding group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a healthy diet of home-cooked and nutritionally balanced meals whilst with this childminder. For example, she strives to ensure that children have five portions of fruit and vegetables per day as recommended by the government. Any food provided by parents is appropriately stored to ensure its safety. Children have free access to drinks throughout the day to keep them hydrated.

Good personal hygiene is promoted as children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly using liquid soap and individual towels. Children are further protected from cross infection as the childminder wears gloves when changing nappies.

Children's health also benefits from regular access to fresh air and exercise as they play in the childminder's garden and are taken to local parks where they play on a selection of equipment. This helps to develop their large muscles and physical skills. Accident and medication records meet legal requirements and ensure children's health needs are met although the medication records lack some detail.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children can play freely in a safe and secure environment. There is ample space within the childminder's home for children to undertake a range of activities. They have easy access to a good range of toys and equipment that the childminder ensures are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The fire drill is practised regularly to make sure children know what to do in the event of an emergency. Children are also taught how to keep themselves safe when out by playing a 'stop and go' game where they learn to stand still when the childminder says 'stop', she also teaches them about road safety when crossing the road. Children are kept safe in the childminder's car as they are restrained in age and weight appropriate car seats. Any outings are risk assessed to identify any hazards.

Children are safeguarded as a result of the childminder's sound knowledge of child protection issues and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide variety of activities that are offered to them. They are regularly taken out to the zoo, beach and library for example, which provide valuable learning experiences for them. Inside the childminder's home they undertake a range of activities such as craft, modelling with play dough and playing with construction toys. Activities follow children's interests and their individual routines, such as sleep times, are respected.

Children have free flow to the childminder's decked garden area where they play with a variety of outdoor toys and equipment such as swing ball and a ball pool, which they enjoy. Children

interact well with the childminder, for example, sitting on her lap to be read to and singing songs and rhymes together.

As well as the activities children are provided with an opportunity to relax and sit quietly, reading books or colouring.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are respected. The childminder is sensitive to children's individual situations adapting her practice to meet their needs, for example, giving them time to settle in when new to her care. They learn about other cultures through playing with multi-cultural toys and looking at books.

Children's self esteem is boosted as they receive lots of praise, they are clear about the expectations of their behaviour and any minor lapse is dealt with appropriately. For example, distraction techniques are used with young children whilst older children are gently reminded about what is acceptable behaviour.

Children benefit from the good relationship that the childminder builds with their parents. She offers a flexible service to meet the needs of all of the parents. Consent forms are in place to involve parents in the day to day care of their children and contracts used once a three month settling period has been completed. However, parents whose children are new to the childminder's care do not have a written agreement that sets out the expectations of both parties.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by an enthusiastic childminder who is constantly evaluating her practice to ensure that she can meet both the needs of the children and their parents. She is keen to develop her own skills and knowledge by attending training when possible and is an active member of the local childminding group. She organises her time and space well to provide children with good quality care in a safe environment.

All required records are in place and kept with regard to confidentiality. Certificates of registration and insurance are clearly displayed for parents to see along with other useful information about her childminding service. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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 good. 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):

- ensure that the medication records clearly state the name of the medicine to be given
- devise a written agreement to be used with all parents that states the expectations of both parties.

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