

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	108113
Inspection date	28 July 2008
Inspector	Margaret Moffat

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 registered in 1995. She lives with her two adult children and one child who is aged 13 years, in Maidenhead, Berkshire. The childminder uses the whole of the ground floor of the house for childminding. Young children use a travel cot for sleeping in a first floor bedroom. There is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder may care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding three children under five part-time and five children under eight before and after school and during the holidays all on a part-time basis. The childminder also cares for a number of children over eight. The childminder makes use of local facilities such as parks, the library and toddler groups. The family has a cat.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She is a member of the Windsor and Maidenhead Childminding Network. She holds an appropriate early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean home where they receive appropriate support to develop good hygiene routines. They confidently approach the childminder for more soap when the dispenser is empty. Paper towels are used to prevent cross infection. A written display in the toilet reminds older children about the importance of hand washing. The childminder has appropriate procedures in place to ensure children's welfare whilst in her care. She has a first aid certificate and documentation for recording accidents and the administration of medication is clear. However, the childminder does not have permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice for all the children.

Children enjoy physical play and activities that contribute to keeping them healthy. They have direct access to the garden and can choose to play indoors or outdoors if they wish. The childminder also ensures they have regular walks and opportunities to play with large apparatus in the local park.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met, for example, with regard to dietary requirements. All meals are home cooked and the childminder ensures children have a balanced diet. Snacks of chopped fresh fruit are available for the children and the childminder ensures children's drinks are readily accessible and replenished when needed. Children are reminded to have regular drinks during the hot weather and the importance of this, encouraging them to think about their personal needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure environment where the childminder has taken reasonable steps to minimise hazards. For example, the childminder has a range of safety measures in place such as socket covers and a stair gate to prevent access to upstairs. The childminder has an emergency evacuation procedure which is displayed around the home and smoke alarms are regularly checked to ensure they remain in working order. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they regularly practise the emergency evacuation procedure and confidently inform visitors what they have to do. Children are kept safe on outings as the childminder has clear procedures that ensure their safety, they have appropriate car seats and when in the local park older children know to remain in the fenced area and be in sight of the childminder at all times.

Children have access to a good range of toys and resources suitable for their age and stage of development. These are stored appropriately and items containing small pieces are stored out of reach of the younger children. Children have the opportunity to make choices about what they wish to play with.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues to safeguard children's welfare. She recognises signs of abuse, holds documentation to support her and is aware of who to inform if she has concerns about a child in her care. The childminder ensures parents are made aware of her duty to protect the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the childminder's home. They are interested and involved in a broad range of activities which they enjoy and which keep them occupied. Children develop independence as they select the activities they wish to play with and tidy others away before they get more out. Children develop good relationships with each other and enjoy each other's company. For example, they talk about one of the best things about coming to the childminder's home is meeting up with their friends and during activities there is lots of discussion and laughter. They co-operate well as they plan a club, making signs and building the club area and making a stage with the large bricks. Children enjoy art and craft activities and are provided with a good range of materials and different types of paints to make their pictures. They patiently wait their turn if other children have a colour they want. Children confidently ask the childminder for other types of paints when they are not out and are very polite when doing so.

The childminder is warm and affectionate towards the children making them feel comfortable and valued. She praises and encourages the children for their efforts and achievements this further develops their self esteem. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of child development and how she uses this to plan a varied and interesting range of activities and outings for the children. She observes the younger children at play and uses the observations as a focus to record their achievements and plan what she will do next with them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals helping them to feel good about themselves. They develop a sense of belonging as they see their artwork displayed in the home. The childminder ensures she is fully aware of the children's individual needs and has effective procedures in place to support the children in her care and work with outside agencies if required. Children have access to a good range of resources which reflect positive images of all aspects of society. They have opportunities to celebrate festivals and traditions and go on outings in the local community.

Children are well behaved and are courteous and polite to each other and the childminder. They benefit from lots of praise and encouragement and from some basic ground rules that are consistently applied. This helps them develop an understanding of right from wrong.

The childminder develops good relationships with parents. There are effective systems in place to ensure information is shared with parents and this promotes the care and well-being of the children. The childminder is pro-active in looking for ways to improve her provision by asking the parents to complete questionnaires about the care their children receive. The feedback from parents highly praises the childminder and reports that they are happy with the service provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Play space is organised appropriately to maximise the play opportunities for the children both indoors and out. Children receive good support from the childminder, who enjoys their company and knows them well. The childminder has all relevant documentation in place to support the care, welfare and safety of the children whilst in her care and shares her policies and procedures

with parents. The childminder collates appropriate attendance records and displays her certificate of registration for parents to see. The childminder continues her professional development through attending regular training courses to further improve the service to children and their parents. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to update documentation to ensure: a record is kept on the premises of medication administered to the children; written permission is in place to seek emergency medical treatment; and parents are provided with contact details of the regulator. This has now been implemented. However, the childminder does not have written permission to seek emergency medical treatment for all children and this remains a recommendation for this inspection. She was also asked to review the contents and position of the first aid box to ensure all items are within date and it is easily accessible in the event of an emergency. The contents of the first aid box have been replenished and it is easily accessible.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there has been one complaint made to Ofsted. The complaint related to National Standard 14: Documentation. Ofsted carried out an unannounced visit; it was found the provider was not meeting the requirements and an action was raised to improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations with regard to notifying Ofsted of relevant matters. Ofsted was satisfied with the provider's response to this action and the childminder remains qualified for registration.

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 written permission from parents to seek emergency medical treatment or advice is in place for all children.

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