

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	119052
Inspection date	07 May 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 has been registered since 1994. She lives with her husband, two teenage children and two children aged 11 and eight years in Ascot, Berkshire. Most of the downstairs area of the home is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden. The childminder walks to local schools, shops and parks. The childminder is registered to provide care for four children under eight years and currently is looking after two children.

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, towels used by the children are washed each day and tissues and wet wipes are readily available. The childminder is aware of hygiene issues, especially when toilet training the children for instance, she ensures the potty is very near and easily accessible. 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.

Children have opportunities to develop their physical skills through a variety of different activities, including outings to local parks to feed the ducks and visits to a leisure club to go swimming. The childminder promotes healthy eating by offering a range of fruit as snacks during the day and provides a home cooked meal such as curry and rice which is a favourite of the children who attend. 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.

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.

The childminder undertakes informal daily checks to ensure the premises are safe and checks the equipment regularly to ensure it is in good repair and appropriate for the needs of the children. The childminder regularly practises the fire evacuation procedure to inform the children of the steps they should take in the event of an emergency. The childminder is aware to ensure the children's safety at all times for example, she immediately removed a wasp which had come into the room. All parental consents are in place including permission for the childminder to take the children swimming.

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 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. Outings on most days include visits to local theme parks such as Legoland and musical groups; this provides children with opportunities to socialise within a wider group. The childminder demonstrates an understanding of the needs of young children. She provides a range of activities and experiences to encourage their early development. She helps the children to begin to recognise and understand numbers by sitting with them asking them to press different numbers such as number six on a computer game.

Children enjoy imaginative play as they make a cup of tea and pretend to toilet train their baby as a child was also being toilet trained at the same time. Children have the opportunity to use the piano to begin to recognise different sounds and the weekly swimming session gives them the opportunity to develop their physical skills and have fun in the water. The childminder praises children's efforts and tells them they have done well and should be proud of their achievements. This positive encouragement ensures that children feel valued and motivated.

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 has taught the children to say good-bye in different languages and celebrates a range of festivals with them. The childminder talks to the children about their family and reminds the children of the names of their siblings and cousins. Children's birthdays are celebrated and the childminder provides a cake for them to share. This gives the children a sense of belonging.

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 enthusiastically to any request from her. The childminder has a good relationship with the parents and works with them for example, helping to toilet train a child. Verbal feedback is given to the parents on how the day has been spent and any progress the child has made. The childminder encourages the parents to contact her by phone during the day if they have any concerns or to share information.

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. Parents are informed of the childminder's practices verbally prior to their child starting. 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 request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical treatment and advice, to keep a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken and to make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint.

The childminder has obtained written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment in the event of an emergency. She 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):

- 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