



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	122975
Inspection date	05 January 2006
Inspector	John Early

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1990. At present she cares for six children; two children aged 7, the others are aged 6, 5, 2 years and 9 months.

The childminder lives with her husband and two children aged 13 and 15 years old. They live in a three bedroom house within walking distance of shops, parks and bus routes. All the downstairs rooms are used for childminding but the upstairs bedrooms are not used. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family have goldfish as pets.

The childminder likes to take the children to local toddler groups, childminder drop-ins and parks. She is a member of the Wandsworth and National Childminding Associations.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a warm, clean home. Children learn the importance of good hygiene practices, such as washing hands after using the toilet and before eating meals.

Children benefit from the childminder's systems for giving and recording medicines, administering first aid and sharing this information with parents.

Children take part in a range of activities such as; playing in the garden, using bikes, cars or push-along toys and going to the local park and shops. This contributes to their health and well-being.

Children benefit from well planned and varied meals and snacks that ensure their dietary needs are met throughout the week. Children benefit from drinks of water, milk or juice provided with each meal.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to move around the house and garden because the childminder generally takes steps to reduce potential hazards.

The children independently choose activities from a wide range of good-quality resources, which the childminder makes sure are appropriate for their ages and stages of development.

Children benefit from the childminder's care and conscientious methods for assessing risks outside the home. She supervises them at all times, for example, when taking them to a toddler group or going in the car on a visit.

Children are protected from harm by the childminder's knowledge of the child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and make themselves at home within the setting. They relate well to each other, sharing toys and learning through creative play, for example; colouring and painting pictures.

Children benefit from the childminder who joins in with the children's play and encourages them to share toys, talks to them and contributes to their learning and development.

Children benefit from the childminder who helps them with their homework after school and sits with them to help with reading.

Children have further access to play opportunities through outings to toddler groups, a baby gym and the Childminder's Drop-in Centre.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals as the childminder gets to know them well. She works closely with parents, which ensures children experience consistent care. The childminder works closely with parents regarding the children's routines and dietary needs. Children have opportunities to increase their awareness of diversity through a range of books, figures, dolls and puzzles.

Children show increasing independence, for example when selecting toys, play materials and playing independently.

Children behave well and understand the importance of house rules, such as not running in the house or climbing on the furniture. They are beginning to understand the importance of sharing toys and playing together.

Children benefit from the childminder's consistent use of praise and encouragement and she has a system in place for encouraging good behaviour.

The childminder has awareness that some children may have special needs and has some experience in observing children with a disability.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable in a well organised home, which helps them gain confidence and become independent. The environment is set out to make the most of the space, maximise the children's play opportunities and for them to play freely and safely.

The childminder makes appropriate use of contracts to invite discussions with parents about their individual needs. She uses the information to promote the care and welfare of the children. The childminder keeps all the required records that contribute to the children's health, safety and well being. However, this is compromised by the missing details for the children's attendance in the register for January and the lack of vetting paperwork for one of the household members. The childminder regularly shares information with parents, which keeps them informed about the care she is providing.

The childminder meets the needs of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection recommendations were made in relation to:

providing a range of play materials with positive images of disability.

providing parents with Ofsted's details.

These have all been met.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints since the last inspection.

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 reported 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 children's daily attendances are recorded in the register at each visit
- ensure that all household members aged sixteen years or over are vetted

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk