

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY349007
Inspection date	09 July 2008
Inspector	Heidi Abernethy

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 in Tilehurst in Reading with her partner. The downstairs of the childminder's house is mainly used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years. She currently has five children under eight years on roll. The childminder is close to local schools, shops and parks. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has two cats and two dogs. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for within a hygienic environment. The childminder cleans eating areas with antibacterial cleaners to ensure cross contamination is prevented. She has a sickness policy in place and gives parents their own copy. This ensures parents are well informed of incubation periods should their child contract a communicable infection. However, the childminder has

not gained written parental permission to seek or gain emergency medical treatment for all the children. This does not ensure children are treated without delay in an emergency.

The childminder provides meals for the children and gives parents a copy of her menu to ensure they are well informed. She demonstrates a good understanding of storing foods appropriately and at the correct temperature. Children enjoy physical exercise. They have fun at the local parks and play on the play equipment. Children enjoy going on walks to walk the childminder's dogs and have fun as they play within the childminder's garden. They love to watch familiar action songs and dances on the television and move and bend their bodies to the music.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder keeps children safe and secure. Doors are secured when not in use and robust procedures are in place to ensure children are collected by their designated person. The childminder has some written parental permissions in place. However, she has not gained written parental permission to take children on outings or to travel in her car. This does not ensure children are fully safe and parents fully informed.

The childminder stores hazardous cleaning materials in the cupboards under the sink in the kitchen and under the sink in the downstairs bathroom. These cupboards have safety latches but these latches are broken and do not work appropriately. Therefore, children are not fully prevented from accessing these cupboards. The childminder does risk assess outings, equipment and her environment to ensure hazards are identified and minimised. She has locks on bedroom windows but does not store the keys accessible in each of the upstairs bedrooms. This does not ensure a quick exit out of the windows in the event of an emergency.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of child protection procedures and knows where to report any concerns. She has a good understanding of signs and symptoms to look out for and how to record these within her incident record.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy within the childminder's home and play with age and stage appropriate toys. Children who become upset or tired are given reassuring cuddles from the childminder. The childminder has settling in visits for new children to ensure they become familiar with her environment. Parents can stay with their children for as many settling in visits as they wish and the childminder states she works with parents for what is best for them and their child.

Children enjoy playing with light up and sensory toys and laugh as they press the buttons on musical toys. They love to snuggle into the childminder to listen to stories and some children turn the pages and point at the pictures. Children participate with a range of art and craft such as play dough and painting. The childminder interacts continually at the children's level, offering praise and encouragement for their achievements and good behaviour. She states she rotates the toys and resources to ensure children have new experiences to explore. The childminder responds to children's communications which ensures they feel valued for what they say. Children can sleep where they feel most comfortable, in a cot, buggy or on the sofa. They love to dance and interact to familiar music and action songs and clap their hands together to celebrate their own achievements.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder is caring towards all the children and demonstrates a good understanding of the needs of the individual children. She shows them equal respect and values them all as individuals. She values the different cultures of the children and celebrates festivals with them. She has some experience of learning difficulties and/or disabilities from past employments. She works with parents discussing any needs she has identified with their children. She helps parents gain support and advice from outside agencies and signposts parents to where they can access support, such as health visitors and doctors. She is currently caring for children with English as an additional language. The childminder works with parents and gains significant and important words from parents such as 'sleep' and 'drink' to ensure she can communicate with their children.

The childminder rewards children's behaviour with positive praise and uses timeout methods for any unwanted behaviour. She discusses children's behaviour with parents to ensure consistent methods are used between the home and the childminder's. The childminder communicates with parents at the beginning and end of each day. She meets with parents twice at the outset to ensure they are well informed of her provision, home environment, policies and routines. Parents are given their own copies of policies which they can refer to within their own home environment.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She has gained an up-to-date paediatric first aid qualification which ensures she can treat children appropriately in the event of an accident or emergency. The childminder knows her requirement to ensure all adults living or working in the household are vetted and suitable to be around the children. She has an attendance register in place and records children's times of arrival and departure. This ensures children are accounted for in an emergency. The childminder has gained required information from parents about their children and she stores this securely to maintain confidentiality.

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 childminder or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. The childminder 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 all written parental permissions are obtained
- ensure all safety measures are in place around the home.

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