



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY301098
Inspection date	21 September 2005
Inspector	Louise, Caroline Bonney

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 2005. She lives with her two children, one who is of infant school age, and one of senior school age. The downstairs areas of the childminder's house is used for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder currently cares for three children under five, and is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. The childminder walks to local nurseries to collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. The childminder supports children with special educational needs. Her qualifications include a National Vocational Qualification at Level 3 in childcare and education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from illness and infection through the effective procedures in place. They have separate flannels and towels, and baby equipment is kept scrupulously clean. Young children have their sleep and feed routines met, and children enjoy warm and caring relationships with the childminder. This helps them settle, and cope well with their day. Children learn about healthy eating as they help to prepare their lunches, such as when they make pizza or savoury sandwiches. They develop their tastes through trying foods new to them, such as pineapple, and have their dietary requirements carefully met.

Babies have frequent drinks, and develop independence as they eat finger foods and begin to control their own spoon while being fed. Children have good opportunities for daily physical exercise. In the garden they dig, slide and seesaw, and develop new skills as they use skipping ropes or swing themselves. Babies have safe space indoors to roll and crawl in, and practise standing up with support. Toddlers and older children walk to nursery and visit the local park and playing fields. This contributes to their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in premises that are welcoming, secure and safe, and procedures are in place which help to protect them. They access areas of the house which are safe for them through the effective use of safety gates, which bar the kitchen and stairs. Sleeping babies are kept safe through careful monitoring, with the childminder checking them every 20 minutes. Children develop awareness of how to keep themselves safe through adhering to the rules in place, such as not climbing the bank in the garden, or running indoors.

Children are able to easily access their toys from low storage units and boxes. Their equipment and resources are age-appropriate and well-maintained, and older children learn to keep smaller toys away from babies. Children learn about road safety as they walk to and from nursery, when toddlers are kept on a rein, and older children learn to hold onto the buggy and cross the road with care. Children are protected through the childminder's good understanding of Child Protection procedures, and her attending up-dating training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well in the warm and caring environment. They develop good relationships with the childminder, who ensures their individual needs are met. Children enjoy a stimulating range of activities, with a balance of adult-led activities and free play. For instance, 3-year-olds are running an experiment to see if flowers put in dye change colour, they cook pizza for lunch and rice-crispy cakes. During free play they select their own activities from the varied range of resources available, such as trains, role-play, or in the garden with the sand, play-kitchen, swings and slides.

Babies actively engage in their activities and enjoy the support and interaction of the childminder. She constantly models language for them to encourage their communication skills. They know how to attract her attention with noises and gestures. They show delight when they repeat sounds the childminder makes, and as she touches their toes while telling a rhyme. They develop co-ordination as they explore toys that make noises and flash lights, take colourful shapes out of a jar, and as they learn to crawl to reach other toys. Children have opportunities to socialise as they attend the local toddler group each week.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have their individual needs, including any special needs, carefully met through the completion of child detail forms and contracts. Parents receive excellent information about the provision at well-planned initial meetings, and are able to see the written policies in place which support the children's welfare. The childminder continues to encourage this exchange of information at relaxed handovers, and the introduction of activity sheets. These provide daily information about the children's activities and care.

Children have their cultural backgrounds taken into account, and the childminder seeks out information to support her understanding. However, activities such as role-play and stories do not yet reflect them sufficiently. Children learn acceptable behaviour through the childminder's effective strategies, which she shares fully with parents. They are aware of the consistent house-rules, such as sharing, caring for each other. The childminder works closely with parents to develop children's understanding of acceptable behaviour. She has consistent house-rules, such as tidying up at the end of the day, sharing and being kind to each other. Babies receive calm and prompt attention, and are happy and content.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's effective organisation of space, time and resources. The children feel at home and are able to freely select their toys, and initiate their own play. Children participate in a good variety of stimulating activities, and the rotation of resources helps to ensure they enjoy their activities. They feel secure through knowing the routines around mealtimes, rests, outings and home

activities. The childminder shares all records and documentation with parents. However, the complaints procedure does not include contact details for Ofsted.

She has effective policies and procedures which promote the welfare and care of the children. Parents receive a summarised copy of these so that they are well informed about the provision. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. She maintains links with the local childminding group and attends regular up-dating training, which helps her to develop her provision further to the children's benefit. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- include contact details for Ofsted in the complaints procedure
- extend resources available to reflect children's cultural backgrounds.

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