



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	222301
Inspection date	16 June 2005
Inspector	Heidi Falconer

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 1994. She lives with her husband and 2 adult children in a village on the outskirts of Royston. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 1 child under 5 part time and 2 children over 5 before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She also attends the local toddler group with children.

The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn how to take care of their own personal needs and understand the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines. For example, they talk with the childminder about why they wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet.

Children's dietary needs are met and they are well nourished and are encouraged to make healthy choices about what they eat

The childminder's system for the administration of medication and the care that the children receive when they are unwell ensure that children's health needs are being addressed successfully. The childminder is able to meet the specific medical needs of children by ensuring that she works with parents to make certain children receive appropriate care in an emergency.

The childminder uses Birth to Three Matters framework well to provide a good range of physical play experiences indoors and outdoors for babies and children to age three. Babies' individual routines are followed and they are fed on demand and changed as needed, so that they are well nourished, comfortable and contented.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment that is safe and secure. Children use a wide range of safe, good quality, developmentally appropriate resources. These are well organised in child-height furniture to encourage independent access.

The children's safety is a priority. The childminder provides children with meaningful experiences to help them learn how to keep themselves safe and is perceptive about individual children's needs. For example, following observations of one of the children in her care, she created a display about road safety in her home. This, followed with clear explanations and experiences, is developing children's awareness and promoting their safety.

The children are well protected because the childminder has a secure knowledge of her role and responsibilities in the protection of children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and have developed warm and

affectionate relationships with her. Children settle well and are confident in the childminder's home because she makes it welcoming for them. For example, she adapts the areas of her home during the day to ensure that they provide a stimulating environment for children. At sleep times she hangs mobiles in the play room which the children enjoy looking at as they fall off to sleep.

All children are encouraged to spend their time purposefully, they have opportunities to try new activities and learn through first hand experiences, for example by going puddle jumping with the childminder in wet weather.

Young children are able to experience a wide range of activities which the childminder plans using her knowledge of the Birth to Three Matters framework. For example, participating in tactile play with shaving foam and semolina. Older children enjoy having a time to relax at the end of the school day. The childminder understands and respects their personal preferences and uses her skills to provide activities which they enjoy and are confident in. The childminder displays children's art work and models, helping them to feel that their achievements are valued.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of the community in which they live. For example, they visit places of interest such as the villages in which they live as well as routine outings to the library and local parks. The childminder meets the children's needs well; they follow their normal daily routine as discussed with their parents.

Children are well behaved, they know what is expected of them because they discuss and help to formulate the rules at the childminder's house. The childminder talks to the younger children regularly to help them understand the rules and the boundaries for behaviour.

A successful partnership with parents contributes to children's well-being. The childminder actively seeks parents' views about their children's needs, routines and interests before the child starts at the setting, and on a regular basis throughout their time there. The childminder ensures that all parents know how their children are progressing and is flexible about how and when she communicates with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised environment. They are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The childminder effectively uses the policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. She shares them regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in

the children's care. However, some of the childminder's documentation still reflects that Social Services are the regulatory body and not Ofsted. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to include times of arrival and departure in the attendance register. The childminder is currently using a National Childminding Association attendance book in which she accurately records the times when children arrive and depart the premises. Keeping accurate records is helping the childminder to promote children's welfare and safety.

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):

- Update headings on all paperwork to ensure that it represents that ofsted are the registered body.

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