



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	404418
Inspection date	08 September 2005
Inspector	Cheryl Langley
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 registered in May 2001. She lives with her two children aged 8 and 10 years in a house in Braughing. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time. She is currently caring for 7 children and works with an assistant occasionally for additional adult support.

All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have 2 pet cats.

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 enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They play in the garden, go for walks and visit local parks regularly to benefit from the fresh air. Children experience a variety of physical activities using both large and small equipment. For example, they have fun playing with a broad range of ball games, sit-on rides, the water slide and climbing equipment in the garden. In the house they move enthusiastically on the dance mat, join in with music and movement sessions or knead play dough into interesting shapes.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They are cared for in a welcoming home where they understand the importance of regular cleaning routines to keep them safe and healthy. Children have a clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after playing in the garden or using the toilet. They help themselves to tissues to blow their noses and cover their mouths when they cough. Children know that they need to wear their hats and cream to protect them from the sun. They take care of their teeth by cleaning them regularly. Children learn about keeping their bodies healthy through discussion, planned activities and lots of interesting books.

Children are beginning to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They know which type of food is good to eat and where it comes from. They visit farm shops to choose different foods and help pick summer fruits to enjoy with the childminder. Children help prepare interesting meals and baking bread rolls is one of their favourite activities. They have access to drinking water throughout the day and eat plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and works with them closely to provide nutritious snacks and meals that appeal to the children as well as meeting their dietary needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is a high priority. They are cared for in a home where procedures are in place to identify risks and minimise them. Children move around safely, freely and independently. They adhere to house rules to keep themselves and others free from harm. Children know not to move around when they are eating so that they do not risk choking and not to climb furniture so they do not fall and hurt themselves. The childminder helps children understand how to keep themselves safe both inside and outside of the home with a variety of interesting books, outings, discussion and leading by example. A visit to the local police station included talking about how the police keep them safe. Children learn to be aware of strangers. They practise codes for crossing the road and walking around the countryside safely. They know what to do in the event of a fire, or the need for emergency escape from the home.

A broad range of safe, developmentally appropriate resources are stored around the

room at child height for easy access. This enables the children to independently select their play and activities safely. The childminder has the required consents, procedures and documents in place to ensure the children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she has a clear understanding of Child Protection issues and is aware of the Area Child Protection Committee procedures. However, some of the relevant information required as per the National Standards is lacking.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy an excellent range of exciting play and activities which are child led or planned and organised by the childminder. They receive adult guidance to give them extra support if needed but their independence is promoted as much as possible. The childminder sets them challenges along with a range of stimulating play to aid their development. She uses curriculum guidance from both the Foundation Stage and local Montessori Nursery. This helps ensure consistency for those children in her care attending nursery and provides different learning opportunities for all the children.

Children learn to recognise different colours when they share a story book and pick out the brightly coloured party dresses or read about snow and compare it to white objects. They make collages in orange and collect green things on nature walks. Children count feathers to make their Indian head-dress and older children practise the times-tables. Children match letter sounds, writing 't' for tummy when they draw bodies or sounding out 'c' for the cat. Children go over their spellings when they come home from school. They enjoy matching and sequencing with activity games and lifting flaps in story books to pick out the different patterns. Children have fun writing letters to others and making marks on the white-board or forming letters in the sand. Regular walks and outings teaches them about the natural environment. They collect leaves, look at fish in the river, watch chickens lay eggs and observe the farm field through the seasons marking the changes. Beans are planted to watch them grown. Creative materials such as pencils, crayons, paint, play dough and different mediums for modelling, encourages the children to represent their experiences, feelings and ideas in a variety of ways. They have fun creating houses, making pyramids or paint their face like a Pharaoh's. They are encouraged to take part in everyday routines to learn about the environment and their local community. For example, they help the childminder with shopping from the local shops or to post letters and sort rubbish for recycling. Exciting outings such as a visit to the Tower of London provides new and interesting experiences, the children love travelling on the train and riding in a taxi. Children are eager to explore new toys and resources. They take delight at the new anatomical model, observing the vital organs of the body, especially the eye.

Their confidence and self-esteem is developed by the childminder who gives them frequent praise and encouragement at appropriate times. The children's sense of belonging is promoted because she knows them well and values their achievements which she displays in her home and shares with parents. She attends special events, such as sports day, to illustrate the high regard she has for the children as well as

using the opportunity to motivate them. They make positive relationships, finding new friends on the numerous outings and different activity centres used.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder provides an excellent range of activities and meaningful resources to promote a positive view of the wider world. Books, dolls, toys and planned activities increase the children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. They enjoy making a totem pole and tepees in the garden and learning about native American Indians.

Children are valued and respected. Their individual needs are well met as they follow their daily routine which is discussed with parents. Children behave very well. They understand right and wrong through consistent boundaries, praise and the age appropriate methods used by the childminder to manage behaviour. Children are considerate, share, take turns and are polite, remembering to say please and thank you. The childminder provides a range of opportunities for the children to socialise which helps them make positive relationships with others. Realistic challenges are set by the childminder to help the children develop. This promotes their confidence and self-esteem. They feel relaxed and secure and able to make independent choices about what they want to do.

Children benefit from a very strong partnership between the childminder and parents who exchange information frequently. They have daily discussions and review contracts, policies and procedures regularly. The childminder organises visits to her home for all the parents and minded children to discuss the children's achievements, activities and routines. Socialising in this way and bringing all the families together promotes the children's sense of belonging and helps keep parents well informed of how their child's needs are being met. The childminder values feedback from parents to support her provision and has received positive and complimentary comments.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The children's needs are met through very effective organisation and good communication with parents. Space and equipment is prepared so that children can access resources easily and independently which enables them to make choices about their play. A balance of child led activities and organised play ensure children have a range of different enjoyable experiences and opportunities to learn and develop whilst they are with the childminder. They benefit from routines which make them feel secure and relaxed. Children play, eat, sleep and rest as they need to.

Documentation is stored securely and information shared appropriately with parents. All of the required policies and procedures are in place to help keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. Children benefit from the childminder's knowledge and experience. She has a Level 3 Certificate in Childminding Practice and holds a

current first aid qualification. Overall, the needs of all the children who attend are met.

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):

- ensure that the procedures for child protection are in accordance with the Government booklet 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused - summary'.

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