



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	220537
Inspection date	17 May 2005
Inspector	Sarah Harrison

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 1996. She lives with her husband in a small village near Brackley, South Northamptonshire. There are community facilities in the town of Brackley which include local schools, pre-schools and shops. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding with the conservatory used for sleeping minded children. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has a pet dog and cats.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children at any one time and currently minds 13 children who attend on a part-time basis at different times throughout the

year.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for with their individual dietary requirements met well. They enjoy a good range of healthy snacks and drinks throughout the day which are freely accessible to them as well as being suitable and nutritious. Children clearly understand about good hygienic practices through daily routine and discussion with the childminder. They know and understand that they must wash their hands at key points in the day such as after playing with the animals, after playing outside and before eating. They know where the tissues and wipes are kept and access them as they need to. Children are developing a sense of independence by learning to keep themselves clean and healthy in this way. Children's good health is further promoted through the use of some recording systems. For example all medicine administered to the children and any accidents or incidents are recorded accurately and signed by the parents. However not all required documentation is in place. Babies and young children regularly participate in active outdoor play which encourages their physical development and enjoyment of the outdoors. They regularly go for walks in the fields behind the childminder's home and clearly enjoy being in the fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and well cared for in an environment which is warm, comfortable and child friendly. They are able to move around the home safely, freely and independently. Children develop their independence further, by choosing from a range of toys and activities which are stored at child height. All resources and equipment are regularly and thoroughly checked to ensure that they are safe and appropriate for children to play with. The childminder has minimised hazards with regular risk assessments and children's welfare is further protected with her knowledge of child protection. Children feel safe and protected as they confidently explore the safe indoor and outdoor environment. They develop their knowledge and understanding of how to keep themselves safe during regular walks with the childminder. For example they talk about how they would manage different scenarios such as road crossing and walking to school.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children make very positive relationships with each other and the childminder. They communicate well and their interests are known so that learning and activities are shaped around their individual needs. Children are confident; they ask questions and engage in discussions. They play together well and learn to care for and respect

each other. Children know and understand house rules and they begin to learn what is right and wrong. They develop a range of skills during activities such as role-play, book sharing and rhymes and jingles which the childminder facilitates. There is a good balance of activities that children choose for themselves as they access the variety of well thought out resources. They show interest in the toys that they select and enjoy long periods of purposeful play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are known and met through an effective working partnership with parents. Individual children's records help the childminder assess the developmental and learning needs of each child, along with any special care requirements. This means that they are fully included in all activities because the childminder uses her knowledge of the children to offer appropriate care. Children feel a sense of belonging and are happy and secure within the childminding environment. They are familiar with the layout of the home know where to put their things. Children know where toys are stored and confidently choose what they want to play with. They are fully aware of the childminder's expectation with regards to behaviour as they learn to take turns and share. The children benefit from a consistent and positive approach to the management of behaviour by the childminder. They understand boundaries and learn right from wrong. Children are becoming increasingly aware of diversity in society through a collection of well chosen books and resources. However some of these resources are not always available for children to play with.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children enjoy an organised and structured environment. They participate in routines and activities which help them feel secure and settled. Space is used effectively so that children experience a broad range of activities such as physical play with outdoor equipment and quiet times on the carpet where they can choose to either draw, read or play. Time is set aside for the children to enjoy interesting experiences and outings with the childminder; as a result children feel confident and secure in the outside world. A satisfactory range of documentation helps to support the running of the setting. However, some records, such as the written agreement between the childminder and parents and documents requiring parental permission, lack detail. Overall the provision meets the needs of all children attending well.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was asked to develop her written agreement with parents to reflect the range of activities and play opportunities offered to children. She is currently undertaking a review of this and now children benefit from a more structured approach to their activities. She was also asked to develop resources reflecting

equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practise. There is now an improved selection of resources to help children to learn about diversity, however these are not all fully accessible to children.

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 children have opportunities to access all resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice
- develop the written agreement with parents to set out the expectations of both parties as to the care of the child, activities provided and business arrangements
- obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment

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