



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256855
Inspection date	10 August 2005
Inspector	Lesley Barrett

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 has been registered since 1993. She lives with husband and their two children in Orton Wistow a suburb situated to the south of Peterborough city centre.

The whole of the house is used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden accessed directly from the house available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children under eight years and is currently minding two children under eight years all of whom attend on a part-time

basis.

The home is within walking distance of local schools and shops. The family do not have any pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to recognise the importance of being healthy. The childminder reminds them to wash their hands when they arrive home from school, after they have visited the toilet and prior to eating. They are prevented from the spread of infection through the childminder's secure knowledge of good hygiene procedures, as she provides them with antibacterial soap for hand washing and ensures that the towel in the bathroom is changed regularly. The childminder has a good understanding of how to record accidents to protect children's well-being. However, medication recording is not of the required standard to ensure the children are fully safeguarded.

Children are served a varied range of healthy snacks and meals, including fresh fruit to promote a healthy diet. The childminder ensures that children are provided with regular drinks within the home and when out on trips to the park. She also monitors how much children are drinking and, where necessary gently encourages them to have more frequent drinks. This ensures that children's good health is promoted.

Children enjoy taking part in physical activities. They walk to and from school, encouraging exercise and a healthy lifestyle. Regular opportunities are provided to play in the garden and the park after school, this enables the children to unwind after a busy structured day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a home where safety risks have been identified and minimised. They are learning about the importance of keeping themselves safe, as they practise road safety procedures when walking to and from school. Effective security systems within the house and garden ensure that children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised.

Children are able to independently select activities from a wide range of toys and resources. These are clean and in a good state of repair enabling them to play safely. A majority of the equipment is stored at a low level, therefore allowing children to make choices about what they would like to play with. New toys and equipment are regularly purchased to give children new experiences.

Children's welfare is safeguarded through the childminder's awareness of child protection procedures. She has a copy of the local Area Child Protection Committee

(ACPC) procedures enabling her to take appropriate action to protect children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive in this family orientated and highly stimulating setting which enables them to feel comfortable and at ease. The childminder has an excellent understanding of children's individual needs, which is reflected within the care that she offers. For example, she understands that a child who only attends one day per week requires the stability of being cared for in familiar surroundings. During this time the childminder skilfully gives the child her undivided attention which enhances the child's self-esteem and confidence.

School age children are provided with excellent opportunities to play in a relaxed environment. They enjoy participating in meaningful role play activities, which enhances their imaginative skills. Appropriate props are provided by the childminder helping to motivate and develop the children's play. The role play situations frequently cover topics they have been learning about at school, which helps to reinforce and extend their learning. Children are able to take pride in their achievements as their performances are videoed and shared with the parents.

In addition to the activities offered within the home, children are provided with frequent opportunities to visit local places of interest. They have enjoyed trips to the museum, wildlife parks and cinema ensuring that they are provided with a balance of stimulating activities inside and outside the home. They also participate in a variety of sports activities which enhance their physical skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children from all backgrounds and religions are warmly welcomed into the childminder's home. She has a sound understanding of how to promote equal opportunities and provides a varied range of resources which reflect diversity, for example, dressing up clothes, craft activities, dolls and books. Positive images are also displayed through posters and children's art work. This helps children to learn about and respect the wider community in which they live. The childminder has developed good relationships with parents, which contributes to their child's care and well-being. Information about each child's day is provided verbally in order to continually meet children's needs.

Children behave well in the childminder's care. They are occupied at all times which contributes to their good behaviour. Children are helped to gain an understanding of right and wrong through the childminder's appropriate behaviour management techniques. Positive behaviour is praised and encouraged helping to raise children's self-esteem.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The good organisation of the child care provision promotes positive outcomes for children. The childminder effectively organises her home, time and activities to ensure children are safe, comfortable and well settled. She has a good understanding of the appropriate adult-child ratios enabling her to give high levels of support to children in her care. Documentation is appropriately organised to support the effective running of the setting. The childminder has a clear understanding of her role enabling her to meet the needs of the children.

Overall the range of children's needs 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 methods for recording medication are of the required standard.

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