



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	123251
Inspection date	26 July 2005
Inspector	Jill Nugent
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 1999. She lives with her 4 children, aged 17, 14, 7 and 5, in an extended bungalow in Bricket Wood. She uses the downstairs areas of the house for childminding and children may also use one of the upstairs bedrooms. There is a secure garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time. Currently she is minding 6 children under 5 and 1 over 5. She collects children from the local school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children keep healthy because the childminder has thorough practices and procedures in place. She backs these up with clear and detailed paperwork. Children are excluded if they are infectious so that others stay healthy. Young children rest when they need to, either in a cot or buggy according to parents' wishes. Consequently, children are generally healthy and protected from infection.

Children are cared for in a hygienic environment. The childminder ensures that they wash their hands before meals. Children are beginning to understand why they need to do this. They show initiative in searching for tissues when needed. Younger children learn not to pick up dirty objects in the garden. The childminder is aware of food hygiene and washes her own hands regularly. Therefore, children stay healthy in her care.

Children are nourished. They have a light lunch with mostly healthy ingredients, such as sandwiches and fruit. At snack time they have a choice of biscuits. The childminder avoids foods with artificial additives. She talks about healthy eating with the children. Any with special diets have their needs met as she liaises closely with parents. Children can request a drink at any time and younger children are offered drinks at intervals. As a result children generally eat a healthy diet and one which is suitable for their dietary needs.

Children enjoy good opportunities for physical activity. They often play in the garden where there is a wide range of toys and equipment. Younger children are developing skills appropriately on a baby swing and small trampoline, whereas older children enjoy the climbing frame and large trampoline. Children learn to steer the battery operated car around the patio. They also visit the local park and go for walks in the woods. Overall, children enjoy the variety of resources and are developing many different skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are looked after in a safe and secure home. The childminder follows good procedures to keep them safe. She ensures that rainwater is swept off the patio so that it is safe for children to play. She removes the steps from the big trampoline so that young children are unable to climb up alone. All the large equipment is set out on the lawn or safety matting. The garden gate is kept locked so that children feel secure. Children are safe indoors. They do not have access to hazardous materials or electrical sockets. The childminder has an evacuation plan in place in case of an emergency. Children are unable to go upstairs unsupervised. They choose from a selection of toys that are safe and suitable for their ages. The childminder keeps toys with small parts out of reach of younger children. On walks, they sit in the buggy or stand on the buggy board. They are aware of the need to stay with the childminder

when out. Therefore, children are safe and secure both at home and on outings.

Children are becoming aware of keeping themselves safe. They learn that they must wear the appropriate shoes in the garden. Older children are learning about using swings safely when younger children are around. Younger ones learn to respond to the word 'no' so that they do not put themselves in danger. Children talk about road safety when walking to and from school. Overall, they have an increasing awareness of personal safety. Children are also protected because the childminder has a working knowledge of child protection issues. She has undergone training in this area and is aware of the procedures to be followed should she have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children show interest in the various resources. They especially like playing with the train sets and construction equipment. Older children are growing in confidence. They respond well to challenges, confidently suggesting ideas. They work together on tasks, for example designing and constructing a train track. Younger children are curious about the world around them and join in with the older children in play. They are learning to communicate through conversation and enjoy sharing books with the childminder. Children overall are acquiring new skills and learning to work cooperatively with others.

Children are making progress in their learning. The childminder interacts to help them develop literacy and numeracy skills. They enjoy computer games and puzzles. When playing in the sandpit, the childminder shows them how to use the moulds to make animal shapes. She helps children set up the train track, showing them how they might fit pieces together and how they can share trains. She has a copy of the Birth to Three Matters framework and hopes to make more use of this when caring for a baby in the near future. Children in her care have a variety of good learning experiences.

Children participate in various activities at the childminder's home. They enjoy creative activities, imaginary play and dressing up. The childminder is keen that children should be allowed to learn through play. Therefore, children have a wide choice of resources and time to explore them fully.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are learning respect for other people. They have good relationships with each other and play together happily. They are confident in making choices and have easy access to all resources. Children enjoy individual attention at times and this helps to develop their self esteem. They receive appropriate support as parents are asked to note any particular needs. Sometimes children are treated to special activities, such as a picnic in the park. They are becoming aware of diversity in society. They feel very much at home with the childminder and her family. However,

the childminder is aware that younger children need to mix with others of their own age. She is hoping to find a local toddler group to attend when the older ones are at school.

Children are aware of responsible behaviour. They are learning to negotiate, for example when building the train track together. The childminder encourages them to share and take turns. They respond well to requests to let another have a turn in the car, or space in the sandpit. She treats all children consistently and praises them often. Consequently, they have an increasing awareness of how to behave appropriately.

Children benefit from the childminder's working partnership with parents. She gets to know the parents well as they all live in her local village. She talks with them at the end of each day and is planning to use a daily diary when caring for the baby. Her written contracts cover all necessary agreements. Children's well-being is enhanced through these good relationships.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has well organised and maintained paperwork. She keeps all documents neatly in a file and her records are up to date. She is keen to improve her practice. She has completed her NVQ's 2, and 3, while working at an after school club. She intends to renew her Food Hygiene certificate and hopes to do more training in Early Years. She has also attended a course in Business Health. She ensures that members of her family over the age of 16 are vetted. Children benefit from her ongoing training and effective organisation.

Children have much space in which to play. There are toys available in the lounge and dining room. They have good access to downstairs bathrooms. Children move freely between the house and garden. The childminder keeps to a daily routine to help children feel secure. She is flexible so that children can attend when parents wish. She meets the needs of all children. Consequently, they are happy, healthy and safe in her care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to ensure the safety of the upstairs bedroom and accessible electrical sockets. All sockets are now covered and the window in the upstairs bedroom has been fitted with safe glass bricks. She was also asked to make a complaints procedure available to parents and so she makes use of the Ofsted parent poster which is displayed clearly in the hallway.

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):

- explore ways of helping younger children to mix with others of a similar age and so develop their social skills

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