



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	110849
Inspection date	30 January 2006
Inspector	Jacqueline Munden

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 2000. She lives with her husband and their two children of primary school age. They live in Hedge End within walking distance to local schools, shops and parks. All areas of the premises are used for childminding except for a one bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden, which is available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children under 8 years and for two children aged under 8 years overnight. At present she is providing care for four children on a part time basis. She holds qualifications in first aid, food hygiene and

Extending Childminding Practice Certificate. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home that is clean, warm and comfortable. Children start to understand the importance of good personal hygiene. Young children are supported in washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Children's health is well promoted as the childminder implements effective hygiene procedures to minimise the risk of infection. For example, she provides individual towels for children and cleans the table before and after eating. Children's health records are kept up-to-date.

Children have opportunities to develop their large muscles as the childminder provides a good range of outdoor play equipment for them, including a swing and slide, wheeled toys and sand play. Indoors, children develop their small muscles through regular use of a wide range of play materials and tools. These include paint brushes, pens and a range of construction toys.

Children can access drinks at all times. They enjoy the routines of regular snacks and meals that parents supply. The childminder takes into account parents' wishes and meets each child's dietary needs to ensure they remain healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are comfortable and feel at home in the childminder's house. They have ample space to play and move around safely. Children can freely access the good range of play materials that is made available to them. A full range of equipment which is clean, safe and well maintained ensures children are cared for appropriately.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety issues. She pays high attention to ensuring risks and hazards are minimised and that children's safety is promoted. She supervises young children closely ensuring they stay safe. Fire safety precautions are in place. For example, a fire blanket is available in the kitchen, smoke detectors are fitted throughout the house and there is a fire evacuation plan in place. However, this is not practiced with children so the childminder is unable to clarify whether she could effectively evacuate all children in an emergency.

The childminder has the required documents and procedures in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded. She has a reasonable knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, has written her own child protection policy, and recognises her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder, they enter confidently and settle well. They enjoy the interesting range of activities and experiences offered to them. Children explore as they mix rice and sand into paint to give it texture. The childminder broadens their vocabulary by using words to describe it, such as lumpy. Children learn about shapes and colours as they match the sticker to the shape, an activity the childminder has made herself. Children build close and caring relationships with the childminder, which increases their sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of the self. Children interact well with the childminder and they participate enthusiastically, which contributes to their developing communication skills. Children become independent as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities. Children enjoy the childminder's company; she joins in their play, which encourages their social skills. The childminder knows children well and ensures that their favourite toys are made available. The childminder has an awareness of the Birth to Three Matters framework. She has a good understanding of child development and how to ensure their care and welfare is promoted.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children flourish in the childminder's care. All children are welcomed and play a full part in their day because the childminder respects each child's individuality. They benefit from the high level of care. She makes sure their routines are maintained whilst still ensuring they can sleep when tired, and eat when hungry, therefore meeting their immediate needs. Children learn about others in the society through the provision of books and play materials that promote diversity. The childminder has a positive attitude to supporting children with special needs.

Children are learning to behave well, they take turns, and share equipment and resources. The childminder uses fun, popular games that promote this. They benefit from the routines of the day and the childminder's calm approach. Children develop independence, confidence and self-esteem as the childminder praises and values their achievements. Children are mindful of the needs of others. For example, a child gets chairs for all three of children to sit on.

Effective communication takes place between the childminder and parents and they work together to meet children's individual needs. This includes written records of children's meals and rest times and regular discussions upon collection. Parents are provided with a good range of information written and verbal to support children's care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's good organisation skills. For example, the home is arranged so that children can move around freely and access equipment with independence. Activities are loosely planned to ensure flexibility and encourage child-initiated play. The childminder has a good knowledge of the National Standards and child development. She is active in developing her own skills by attending training and keeps up-to-date with current regulation. All adults in the house are vetted. All documentation required by regulation is in place, well maintained and kept in a confidential manner. This, plus the childminder's policies, supports and underpins the childminder's good practice. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection recommendations were made to obtain consent from parents to take children in a vehicle and to seek emergency medical treatment. Children's health and welfare has been improved as she has obtained this permission.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted. 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):

- improve fire safety by conducting and recording the emergency evacuation procedure.

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