



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 141527
Inspection date 10 January 2006
Inspector Maxine Coulson

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 over 20 years ago. She lives with her husband and adult daughter. They live in a 3 bedroom semi detached house on a residential road in Newport Pagnell. Childminding takes place on the whole of the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for children's outside play. Her home is within walking distance of local shops, pre-school and schools.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time. She currently cares for 7 children, of these 3 are over the age of 8. Children attend for various days and sessions.

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. There are regular outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example riding on wheeled toys, use of balls, and walking to and from school. Regular visits to local parks improve children's physical skills such as climbing steps on slides or using climbing frames.

Children flourish in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They understand why they must wash their hands after going to the toilet and this helps reduce the risk of infection. Children benefit from a well-balanced diet and healthy snacks and meals. They have access to drinks at all times to prevent them from becoming thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a secure environment because the childminder identifies and minimises risks through vigilance and the use of different safety measures. For example, socket covers and fire guards. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Children are under constant supervision when off the premises and appropriate use of buggies ensure they stay safe at all times when on outings and routine trips.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment. The childminder, through careful supervision, ensures toys and equipment are safe and appropriate for children's age and stages of development. The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare well through her sound knowledge of child protection issues. She provides a written child protection policy to share with parents to ensure they are aware of her duties as a registered childminder.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children relate extremely well to the childminder and are confident and happy in their surroundings. They are able to easily access and choose from a good range of toys, equipment and resources helping them to develop their independence. Children are beginning to develop social skills by having opportunities to play with other children of a similar age through attending local toddler and childminding groups.

Children have access to a variety of fun activities to encourage them to progress in all areas of development, including imaginative and creative play. For example, they enjoy activities that help them develop hand/eye co-ordination such as pouring water

from a teapot into beakers.

Children have access to play areas that allow them to move around freely and take part in spontaneous play. Children clearly enjoy playing with the toys and resources that are provided helping them to learn and progress through their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are active, interested and enjoy a variety of different types of play, which means they behave well. Through support from the childminder they are beginning to learn awareness of their actions and to understand right from wrong. Children are developing a good sense of self esteem through consistent praise and encouragement from the childminder.

Children are beginning to develop their independence through making their own choices of toys and activities. They have opportunities to learn about their local community through visits to parks, farms and libraries. Children have regular access to toys and resources that help them learn about different lifestyles and promote a positive view of the wider world. The childminder has an understanding of meeting the needs of children with special educational needs although none currently attend.

The childminder has discussions with parents and carers to ensure she meets children's individual needs and routines, helping children feel confident and secure. She gathers this information and keeps it within the children's records to help meet their needs on a daily basis. Children receive good support and appropriate care through the childminder's good practices. For example, she verbally feeds back to parents on a daily basis to inform them of how their child is settling in and progressing. She does not, however, provide Ofsted's details to parents in the event of an unresolved complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel very much at home within a relaxing environment that contributes to their sense of belonging. They have very good adult support to help them feel confident and secure within the setting. Children have access to a good amount of space that the childminder organises well allowing them to move around easily and to be able to express their ideas during free play.

The childminder effectively uses policies and procedures. She has all of the necessary documentation and parental permissions in place which promotes the welfare, care and learning of children. She provides parents with well-written information and they regularly share feedback, which contributes to continuity of the children's care.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop the parental 'welcome letter' to include further details about childminding routines, practice, policies & procedures and obtain written permission from parents to administer sun cream and take photographs.

The childminder now has obtained permission to take photographs, administer sun cream and includes all relevant details within her written portfolio, policies and procedures. This ensures the children's continuing care, welfare and safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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.

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 parents have access to Ofsted's details in the event of a complaint.

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