



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY249170
Inspection date	24 January 2006
Inspector	Tracy Bartholomew

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 2002. She lives with her partner and three school age children years in a village in West Oxfordshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder attends visits to the park, toddler groups, walks and trips out.

The childminder is registered for five children at any one time and is currently minding five who attend on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean environment where they learn to follow good hygiene practices. Good daily routines and explanations help children understand that coughing while covering their mouths reduces the risk of passing on germs.

The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that the children's food, which is provided by the parents, is hygienically stored, prepared and served whilst in her home, to ensure the children remain healthy.

Suitable procedures are in place to ensure that children receive appropriate care in the event of an accident; however, the accident book does not maintain confidentiality.

Children regularly enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their health and develops their physical skills; they enjoy outings to toddler groups and trips to the local park, which gives the children opportunity to develop physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to play comfortably in a safe environment, as the home is welcoming with adequate space. They are able to explore their surroundings under close supervision. Their risk of injury is minimal as the childminder ensures that the areas are safe and suitable, by having a stair gate at the bottom of the stairs.

The childminder has taken positive steps to ensure the children's safety whilst in her home. However, the security of the premises is lacking. As the front door is not always locked, and can be opened from both inside and outside the property. As a result the children can leave the premises unsupervised, although the childminder is conscious where the children are at all times.

Children independently select toys from a range of toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. Appropriate storage provides opportunities for children to easily access toys; these are appropriate for their age and stage of development. The childminder safeguards the children's safety and welfare and is secure in her knowledge of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from purposeful and very well planned activities, such as board games, arts and crafts and role play. The childminder has a very sound knowledge of the children's development and is able to plan effectively for the children to progress

in their development with the comprehensive range of resources. Children's ideas and interests are highly valued and fully taken into account by the childminder. This develops children's self-esteem and confidence in their ideas and choices.

The children enjoy fantastic relationships with the childminder. They are happy, relaxed and settled in her care. They enjoy each other's company and having fun together, especially when dancing. The childminder ensures children are the focus of her day. She is fully involved in all aspects of the children's play and care and has excellent interaction with them.

Children are able to be independent, as the childminder ensures she gives them time to complete tasks such as putting on their shoes and coats. She has an excellent understanding of when to offer appropriate help to provide support in developing these skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder provides a significant range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world. Children play with accessible resources, which include puzzles, dressing up clothes, dolls and books that reflect positive images. They take part in activities about a range of festivals, which allows children to increase their awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. The childminder has suitable systems in place to support children who have special needs, which ensures she is able to meet and plan for children's individual needs.

Children's care needs are met and continuity is provided through the excellent relationships the childminder has with parents. The childminder uses appropriate strategies for managing behaviour. She is clear and consistent with the children, which helps children understand right from wrong. The children know and understand the house rules very well. They develop sharing and turn-taking skills through discussion and playing games. Children enjoy ample praise from the childminder, which encourages good behaviour and contributes to their self-esteem.

The childminder values her partnerships with parents and together they have an exceptional rapport. She exchanges information with them frequently and keeps them well informed of their child's day and progress, through detailed verbal feedback at the end of each day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are making good progress as the childminder has a strong focus on children's individual needs. She uses the time and resources well to help the children enjoy their time with her. She maintains the adult-to-child ratio at all times so that she can positively support the children's care and learning. All mandatory documentation is in place to ensure the safe and efficient management of the provision. The

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At last inspection, the childminder was asked to update the children's records; include parental permission for emergency medical treatment; complete a first aid course; fit the fire blanket; and extend her resources to reflect positive images of culture and disability. The childminder has updated her documentation, attended training and extended her resources, so the recommendations have been addressed.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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 that the accident book maintains confidentiality
- ensure that constant suitable safety measures are in place in relation to the front door.

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