



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	222507
Inspection date	06 February 2006
Inspector	Lorraine Hunt

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 1995. She lives with her husband and 3 children aged 17, 15 and 12 in a large village to the north of Cambridge. The whole of the ground floor and an upstairs bedroom and bathroom are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 3 children under 5 on a part-time basis. The childminder is able to walk to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends local parent and toddler groups and is involved with the local

childminder group. The family has a pet dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about the importance of good hygiene practices through daily routines such as washing their hands after using the toilet and using individual wet wipes before eating. This contributes towards minimising the risk of cross infection and illness. If children become unwell or have an accident whilst they are in the care of the childminder, the childminder's secure knowledge of appropriate first aid treatment ensures children receive good care and attention and written records support this. For example, written consent to seek medical treatment and administer medication are in place and all accidents and medicines given to children are recorded. The childminder has a written health policy which she shares with parents but this does not cover exclusion periods to reduce the risk of cross infection.

Children take part in a suitable range of activities that contribute to their good health and help them to develop new physical skills according to their stage of development. They enjoy regular physical activities, such as local outings to the park and playing in the garden, which means that they benefit from active exercise. Children's health and dietary needs are met through discussion with parents with the childminder providing a basic range of snacks. Children are able to access regular drinks throughout the day which encourages healthy drinking practices.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well supervised at all times, which means that they safely develop their independence in a secure environment. The childminder has a good understanding of safety issues; she has minimised risks in the home to ensure children are safe. For example, all low level sockets are protected and child locks are fitted to kitchen cupboards to ensure children cannot access hazardous substances. Children learn about how to keep safe as the childminder helps them to understand about the dangers, both indoors and outdoors. They take part in regular fire drills and follow safety rules when they go out for walks such as holding hands or the buggy and not touching dogs because they may not be as friendly as the childminder's own dog.

Children play with a range of good quality, developmentally appropriate toys and resources which the childminder cleans and checks regularly to ensure they are safe and in good condition. These are rotated to offer variety, but children can ask for a particular favourite if it is not already available so that individual interests and preferences can be catered for. Children's overall welfare is maintained by procedures and documents that promote their safety. For example, the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection procedures, which are in line with those set out by the local Area Child Protection Committee. She has recently been

proactive in updating her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues through some modular training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and secure in the childminder's home. They confidently make themselves at home and form warm relationships with the childminder and each other, which contributes to their sense of belonging. The childminder offers them good support during their activities and joins in their play with lively interest, which encourages them to develop their skills. For example, children's early communication skills develop through the good quality and sensitive interaction with the childminder, who responds positively to their talk. Young children enjoy each other's company and they are beginning to develop positive relationships with each other.

Children enjoy a varied range of activities, both inside and outside the home which contribute to their development. Babies play confidently with a good range of developmentally appropriate toys and materials which interest them and are organized so that they can explore them independently. They enjoy snuggling in to share books. Older children have good opportunities to enjoy art and craft activities such as making fridge magnets, painting plates and pumpkin Halloween faces. Children develop physical skills as they knead bread dough and mix ingredients together to make buns. Children under five are able to develop their social skills because the childminder makes good use of local groups to extend their range of experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's behaviour is good. They learn to behave well and play happily together with the support of the childminder, who helps them to share and take turns. Children understand what is expected of them through regular routines and consistent expectations, which helps them to feel secure. Children receive plenty of praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements which helps to develop their confidence and self-esteem.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and the childminder's thorough knowledge of their individual needs enables her to provide them with appropriate care. All children are welcomed into the setting. The childminder is developing a range of resources to provide a positive view of the wider world and to help children understand their similarities and differences. Children are able to learn about the local community by going on regular walks around the village, visiting the park, library and nature area.

Children benefit from positive relationships between the childminder and their parents; information is shared between them on a daily basis so that, for instance, she is able to understand that a child who has been unwell over the weekend needs

extra attention and support. Children benefit from a good settling in procedure, which helps them to make the transition between home and the childminder. All parents receive a copy of the childminder's policies which enables them to be well informed about the care provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from good levels of support and supervision, which enables them to feel safe and secure in the setting. They are comfortable, happy and at ease with the childminder and in the home environment. This means that they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The childminder effectively maintains and uses appropriate forms of record keeping and has procedures in place to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. The childminder talks to parents on a daily basis to keep them well informed about the care provided and their child's progress. This contributes to the continuity of children's care so that they feel secure. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to obtain written parental permission to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment and to ensure that parental consent for administering medicines was not in blanket cover form. These are now in place to further promote children's health and safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 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.

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):

- further develop the policy for sick children to ensure that parents are informed of procedures to follow with regard to exclusion of children who are ill or infectious
- ensure that snacks help to promote and develop children's understanding of healthy eating

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