



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	134356
Inspection date	08 February 2006
Inspector	Ann Taylor
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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

This childminder has been registered since 1998. She is registered to provide care for six children under eight years; of these, not more than three may be under five years, and of these, not more than one may be under one year. At present 9 children under five and 8 children of school age are cared for.

She lives with her family in a detached house in Witney within walking distance of local amenities and the town centre. All areas of the home are used for childminding purposes.

The family have a dog and a fish.

The childminder has experience of working with children with special needs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive in a clean and welcoming environment because of the childminder's high level of commitment to hygiene. The childminder and children wash their hands very frequently throughout the day, to prevent the spread of infection, and children are learning excellent practice.

Children bring their own refreshments, which the childminder consistently refrigerates and re-heats safely to sustain and nourish the children. She fully appreciates what foods children like best and follows their precise eating patterns when offering food and drink, to help children stay within their familiar routines.

Children have highly supervised contact with the family pets and learn to be gentle. They experience a variety of stimulating and versatile activities in the garden to benefit from fresh air, and enjoy short outings.

Appropriate action is taken when children are ill to make sure they receive appropriate care, for example emergency contact numbers are in place in case children are taken ill, and all medical consents are in place. GP details are in place on children's records, and details of children's allergies, if any, are recorded carefully.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children flourish in a welcoming, safe environment with ample space to accommodate their activities when playing together or separately. The childminder is resourceful in that she positions seating and equipment to maximum effect in order to minimise risks to children of all ages. Children access an extensive range of stimulating resources safely. Mobile children learn to show exceptional consideration and respect to each other, taking care not to hurt anyone else as they play. The childminder safely offers various resources to those who are unable to do so for themselves, for example, putting appropriate toys within their reach to stimulate their interest and development.

The childminder protects children's well-being by her pro-active approach to risk assessment. She constantly reviews her care to identify and address hazards as children grow and develop. She has experience and a sound understanding of child protection issues and keeps reference material handy to enable a rapid response to concerns. Children are cuddled and reassured to ensure they feel safe and secure.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children relish their time at the childminder's house. They enter confidently and make themselves at home. The childminder encourages children to try things for themselves, and they grow

independent, for example they know the routine for taking off shoes and coats when they enter the house, and they can go to the kitchen and find their own cup when they are thirsty. Children willingly find toys for others to play with, and they make appropriate choices showing they are sensitive to the needs of other children.

Babies receive lots of cuddles and have a strong bond with the childminder which increases their sense of well-being. They develop early communication skills as they attract the attention of the childminder, who responds to their early vocal sounds during the day.

Children play confidently with an excellent range of toys and imaginative materials, and show an interest in what they do. They benefit from regular outings to singing groups and toddler groups, which promote learning and stimulate their interest in the wider world.

The childminder successfully joins in with children's play to help develop each child's language, understanding, ideas, and enjoyment. She interacts well with the children, responding to their interests. She gives children excellent opportunities to reflect and learn through their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are valued and receive outstanding learning opportunities from the childminder, who has extensive experience in caring for children, and is skilled in providing for individual needs. Those with special needs are fully included in the day. The children's well-developed sense of concern and consideration results in them forming an extremely harmonious group.

The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept well informed about all relevant policies and procedures. She formulates individual working arrangements to ensure she meets children's particular needs. She shares information with parents verbally, or by diary, on a daily basis, and parents also get additional information about their children's care from her excellent parents' folder. She has effective arrangements in place to share confidential information.

The childminder sets clear boundaries and ensures children understand the reasons behind them. She is consistent in her expectations and as a result children are very confident and feel important and valued from a very young age.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children feel at home and at ease with the very well organised environment. They are extremely well protected and cared for because the childminder has an extensive understanding of child development. She is committed to her own improvement and development and regularly attends relevant training courses to increase and update her childcare knowledge.

Children's welfare, care and learning are promoted because the childminder has comprehensive policies and effective procedures which are shared with parents. Policies, individual to the

setting are robust and fully support the expert practice of a highly skilled childminder. Policies and information for parents are meticulously presented in a folder for parents to see.

All documents and records are maintained to optimum standard. Comprehensive diaries for the under fives ensure that parents are kept fully informed at all times. The setting 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 improve her recording of any accidents. She now uses documents from the NCMA, which are all completed as required, and up to date.

The inspector also asked that the care of children over 8 years old does not adversely affect children under 8 years old. From discussion at this inspection, the childminder shared with the inspector how she organises the premises and the activities when she is minding children of different ages. The inspector was satisfied that the under 8s are fully cared for and safe at all times.

Complaints since the last inspection

Ofsted has received 1 complaint since the last inspection relating to Standard 3, care, learning and play. They carried out an investigation in June 2004. Ofsted was satisfied with the provider's response to the concern, and she remains qualified for registration. The complaint is recorded in the complaints record.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk