



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112694
Inspection date	05 July 2005
Inspector	Jacqueline, Ann Connell

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 1990. She lives with her husband and their three teenage children in a four-bedroomed, detached house in Waltham Chase. She is registered to care for six children under eight years, of whom, no more than three may be under five years and, of these, not more than one may be under one at any time. She is not registered to provide overnight care. She currently cares for five pre-school children and five school aged children on a part time basis.

The minded children use the ground floor of the home, although the lounge is only used for sleeping purposes. They have access to the enclosed rear garden. The

family keeps pets, including one cat.

The childminder takes children to and from the local school and pre-school and for visits to the park, library and shop. She is a member of the National Childminding Association [NCMA] and the local Childminding Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean home where they learn about personal hygiene through discussion with the childminder and good daily routines. For instance, they consistently wash their hands after visiting the toilet, before mealtimes and after playing outside and know why this is important. The childminder ensures each child has a personal, colour-coded towel which provides additional protection from infection and also encourages the children's colour recognition. She follows good procedures when dealing with her pets to ensure children keep healthy.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health and physical development. They have regular opportunities for outdoor play in the garden or at the local recreation ground. They eagerly develop and practice their physical skills as they play with equipment such as balls, hoops and sit-and-ride toys.

Children understand the importance of having regular drinks, especially during hot weather, and are able to access drinks for themselves. They enjoy very healthy and nutritious snacks. The childminder works extremely closely with parents and ensures she respects their wishes and meets the children's individual dietary requirements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are secure in the clean, child centred home and find the attractive pictures and posters displayed on the walls very welcoming. They develop confidence as they move around safely and freely in the well planned space. The childminder gives high priority to children's safety and identifies potential risks and hazards within the home. She has appropriate procedures for taking children out, in order to keep them safe, and discusses safety with the children so they understand how to keep themselves safe.

Children independently select their own toys from the broad range of good quality, stimulating play materials which meet their developmental needs. They enjoy making choices from the very colourful and clearly labelled containers. The childminder rotates the toys regularly in order to extend the selection and maintain the children's interest. She checks the equipment each week to ensure it is safe and clean for them.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure

children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she holds a current first aid certificate and is very aware of her professional duty to protect children. She understands the child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children settle extremely well in the childminder's house. They enter with great enthusiasm and quickly and eagerly become involved in their play. They are very confident in their relationship with the childminder who is exceptionally welcoming and offers them consistent warm support and encouragement. They become independent as they choose from the extensive selection of toys and equipment which cover all their developmental needs. They thoroughly enjoy the planned activities which are stimulating and extend their learning and creative skills. For instance, they learn about the natural world as they discover flowers and insects in the garden, talk about them and then make pictures or models of their discoveries.

Children relate extremely well to each other and show great delight in being together. They learn to socialise with other children and adults through regular attendance at local toddler groups. They thoroughly enjoy looking at books and stories read with the childminder and learn that reading is an exceedingly pleasurable and enjoyable experience. They develop their imagination and communication skills as they share in informal, spontaneous conversations with the childminder who asks stimulating and thought provoking questions which encourage new ideas.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have a very good relationship with the childminder and she knows them well and responds to their individual and specific needs. This helps them to feel valued and respected as individuals. Children learn to understand and value other people through discussion, resources which reflect diversity and planned activities around themes such as Chinese new year or Trafalgar Day .

Children know and understand the clear ground rules for behaviour and behave well. They learn to be kind to one another, and to show respect to other people and their property. They are encouraged by the childminder's praise when they are helpful and take simple responsibilities.

The childminder develops very good relationships with parents. She works closely with them in order to follow children's home routines. She keeps a diary for each child and has a daily exchange of information with parents so that they can work together to get the best outcome for the child. She gives them clear information about her policies and procedures in her prospectus and keeps them well informed of future activities through her regular newsletter in order to provide a good link between home and the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel secure and comfortable in the homely, well-organised environment. They are familiar with the daily routine which is carefully planned, but flexible, in order to meet their needs.

The childminder meets regularly with other childminders and recognises the importance of training in order to increase her knowledge and understanding of her work and to enable her to provide a better quality of care for the children. She shares her policies and procedures with parents and uses them effectively to ensure the children's needs are met. She has most of the required documentation in place although she does not always obtain a signature from parents before administering medication which means children's health and welfare is not fully promoted. She stores all the children's records securely in order to maintain confidentiality.

Overall , the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to obtain written parental consent to enable her seek advice or treatment in an emergency. She now has written parental consent for each child in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

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.
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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?
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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 there is written parental consent before medication is administered.

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