



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	134530
Inspection date	09 March 2006
Inspector	Cordalee Harrison
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 1999. She lives with her husband and two adult children. The family live in Bicester, Oxfordshire. The main childminding activities take place on the ground floor of the childminder's home, where children have access to the living room, kitchen diner and conservatory. Toilet and washing facilities are also located at this level. A first floor bedroom is used for children to sleep. A securely fenced garden is available for outdoor play. The property is within walking distance of local amenities.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time, and is currently looking after 4 children. All of the children are aged under 8 years, one child is aged under 2 years, and attend full time. Three of the children attend on a part-time basis. School age children may attend before and after school, and during the school holidays.

The family pet is a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children get fresh air and regular physical exercise as they walk to and from school and play freely in the garden. Gross motor skills, agility and balance is further progressed with various ball games, skipping and use of equipment, such as hoops, climbing frames, swings and slides. Children use resources, such as, shape sorters, tool-sets, play-dough and small world figures to develop fine movements and coordination in their every day play.

The childminder maintains good standards of hygiene in all areas of the home. This reduces the risk of cross-infection for children and helps them to develop good hygiene habits. The childminder attends to children's personal hygiene needs promptly. Young children are clean and comfortable. The childminder understands the importance of a healthy diet to children's overall development. She provides children with healthy snacks including a variety of fresh fruits and salad vegetables. To ensure that children's meals are nutritious she shares information about healthy eating with parents. Drinks of water and milk are available for children throughout the day. The childminder feeds babies to their individual routine and offers drinks regularly between feeds.

The childminder who is qualified in first aid uses appropriate first aid equipment to deal with minor accidents involving children. Accident and medication records contain all of the necessary details to safeguard children's health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and comfortable in the warm, homely environment. They are able to use the areas accessible to them freely. They have easy access to good quality resources to use in their play. Babies sleep comfortably and the childminder checks them regularly. The childminder uses suitable equipment to meet children's developmental needs, this ensures their safety and encourages their independence. Safe arrangements are in place for children's arrival and departure.

The childminder takes effective safety precautions in all areas of the home that children use. Suitable fire fighting equipment is readily accessible for her to use. Children are learning to keep themselves safe, with the childminder's guidance children identify safe places to cross the road; they learn to look and listen for traffic. Older children practise to evacuate the premises safely, they learn that when they walk sensibly they are more alert and aware of what is going on around them.

The childminder is clear about her role to protect the children she looks after. She demonstrates good understanding of child protection issues. The childminder has a clear understanding of the lines of communication to deal with any issues of concern about child protection, with parents as well as the local and registering authority, to safeguard children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder demonstrates good knowledge of child development, and Birth to three matters framework. She is experienced at caring for children of varying ages. She uses her knowledge and experience to differentiate care for younger and older children. The warm interaction between the childminder and young children helps them to progress their overall development and promotes their emotional stability well. Young children show curiosity and interest in other people. For example, the baby smiles readily, she is confident and secure in the childminder's care.

A familiar routine helps children to know what to expect. For example, the routine for mid-morning sleep is clearly familiar to the baby, she waves to say bye-bye and goes to sleep calmly. The baby has easy access to good quality playthings, she explores the surroundings using her senses. The childminder gives the baby her time and attention in conversation and play; the baby is responsive to the childminder's positive interaction and involvement in her play. The baby repeats the childminder's actions and tries to make the interactive toys work. Children learn colour, shape and letter recognition as they use a wide range of resources that are designed to stimulate their intellect. They express their creative ideas through role play and various art activities. Number recognition is practised as children use numbers in their conversations and see numerals reflected in their playthings. Children develop their communication and language skills as they converse with the childminder, read books, listen to stories and sing action rhymes.

Activities such as cooking teach older children to use tools and equipment safely and consolidate their learning about good hygiene practices. They further consolidate their mathematical thinking as they weigh, measure and learn about how and why things change. They explore nature, learn about time and the different seasons as they plant seeds in the growing season, and collect pinecones and conkers in autumn. Children socialise with their peers as they visit the toddler group and build relationships with other adults in a safe environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's record forms contain all of the required information. This enables the childminder to meet their individual needs and safeguard their health. The childminder maintains open communication with parents. This enhances continuity of care and helps them to achieve consistency of care for children. Children use practical resources, such as books and puzzles, to explore and understand about differences and similarities. They extend their understanding of the wider community as they meet with others outside the home, participating in activities, such as going to parks and the cinema.

The childminder involves the children in managing behaviour, this helps older children consider their own behaviour and how it affects others. They learn to show respect for their own property and that of others. The childminder's suitable strategies and consistent approach to managing behaviour, which is known to children and parents, helps them to know what to expect. Children learn to behave well and to be considerate of others.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are welcomed into a well organised home where they are safe and secure. They use ample good quality resources, and enjoy many good quality first hand experiences as they learn through play.

The childminder's organisation is good as it covers all aspects of her childminding activities well. Children's documentation contains all of the required information. The childminder shares many effective practice statements with parents to assure them of consistency when dealing with individual children. However, the childminder does not request parents' written consent to administer medication to children as part of the contractual agreement.

The childminder demonstrates good knowledge of the National Standards and guidance for childminding, this enables her to provide good quality care for children. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and public liability insurance for the benefit of the children she minds. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was asked to develop formal ways to keep parents informed about children's activities. The provider communicates effectively with parents about children's activities, both verbal and written information is exchanged daily to keep parents informed about their children's activities and achievements.

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 record of complaint 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):

- request parents written consent to administer medication to children as part of the contractual agreement.

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