

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 161057
Inspection date 30 April 2007
Inspector Janet Maria Moutter

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 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine and four in Abbeymeads a district of Swindon, in Wiltshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five all day and one child over five before and after school. The childminder walks to the local primary schools to take and collect children with shops and parks also within walking distance. The childminder runs the local parent and toddler group.

The family has a dog and two guinea pigs and a hamster and also a rabbit, which is kept in a secure run in the garden and a fish tank in the lounge.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health is effectively promoted by the childminder who has an excellent understanding of children's health, hygiene and nutrition.

Children thrive in a home in which the importance of good hygiene and personal care is thoroughly promoted through the childminders daily routines. As a result young children develop exceptional self-care skills and an understanding of the importance of these routines from an early age; for example, they know that they need to wash their hands before eating, they use the step to reach the hand basin, use the soap and select their own towel to dry their hands.

Children thrive and enjoy an excellent range of healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. The childminder has highly effective procedures to gather information about children's individual dietary requirements and parental wishes, consequently allowing her to provide for and meet the individual needs of the children. Children confidently request drinks throughout the day. Children benefit from the childminders exceptional systems to ensure that all meals are prepared and served hygienically. There are excellent procedures in place to ensure that children are protected from the spread of illness and infection, which children understand well.

Children enjoy activities which contribute to their good health and are expertly supported by the childminder who plans an extensive range of physical activities both within the home and garden as well as at play areas, indoor soft play centres and on trips. The plentiful opportunities to use a wide range of equipment develop children's large and fine motor skills and children gain confidence in their own abilities; for example, as they plant out the flowers and vegetable they have grown and cared for from seed in the garden.

Children's wellbeing is further promoted by clear procedures and policies on illness, pets and health and safety which are shared and agreed with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children freely and confidently make choices from the extensive range of toys and resources available, all of which are stored and displayed safely within easy reach of the children. Children use toys and equipment that are cleaned regularly and are appropriate to the stage and development of each individual child. For example the garden trampoline has a safety net and the children have supervised play which is timed.

Children are very well protected by the childminder, who has an excellent understanding of child protection procedures and her responsibilities.

Children enjoy a safe and secure environment due to the childminders excellent awareness of safety and potential hazards. Children regularly practice fire drills, the details of which are carefully recorded by the childminder. Consequently children of all ages have an excellent and thorough understanding of the evacuation procedures and of the dangers of fire. The childminder has thoroughly planned and organised her safety procedures both inside and outside of the home to ensure that children are safe at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children flourish in the childminder's care; they are happy, settled and secure. Children develop confidence as a result of the sensitive support they receive from the childminder and the great interest she takes in all they say and do. For example joining in their games and planning topics on the environment that are both sensitive and exciting.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of child development and makes good use of the Birth to three matters framework, enabling her to plan stimulating activities and play opportunities to support children in all aspects of their development. As children play and take part in activities, their communication and social skills are effectively developed by the good quality conversation which flows between the childminder and children. Children are encouraged to think and develop their understanding as a result of the childminder's skilful questioning such as 'What will these tadpoles grow into?'. Children approach new activities such as acting out the stories read by the childminder with the comprehensive range of finger puppets they all shared and are rewarded by lots of laughter and fun. They then went on to role play waiters in a restaurant with confidence, while the childminder prepared their lunch.

Children play with great interest and enthusiasm; they concentrate for extended periods from a very early age and rapidly develop new skills. Play materials are very well organised, readily accessible and set out in a way which is appealing to children; for example, tadpoles in a fish bowl are attractively displayed with lots of information and pictures so that the children can study them as they develop into frogs. The tadpoles are at child height and so is the weather bear with his umbrella, which the children changed to a sun hat when the sun came out. This enables children to make choices and encourages them to experiment with a range of materials, thereby developing their independence and promoting their learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has good procedures in place to share information with parents about their child's achievements. These verbal exchanges ensures that parents are able to provide the childminder with details about their child that enable her to provide for and meet the individual needs of all children in her care. The childminder has developed highly effective procedures to provide parents with information, detailing her policies and procedures. She works closely with parents to ensure that children benefit from a consistent approach to their care. However, after the initial questionnaire from parents there is no documented evidence of two way communication with parents such as when sharing their child's achievements

Children behave impeccably in response to the praise and encouragement from the childminder. She ensures that at all times she is a positive role model to children; as a result children learn exceptional manners. Children are treated as individuals and equally. Liaison with parents ensures that the individual needs of all children are very well met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in this environment which is well organised to meet their needs and maximise play opportunities. The childminder makes excellent use of resources to maximise children's enjoyment and promote their development. The high quality of this provision

means that the childminder meets the needs of the range of children who attend extremely well.

Children benefit greatly from the childminder's experience, skills and qualifications; the childminder continues to update and further her extensive knowledge of childcare by regularly attending courses.

Children's health, safety and wellbeing is promoted effectively because all the legally required documentation is detailed, accurate, up-to-date and shared with parents. In addition, children's care is supported by comprehensive, clearly written policies and procedures.

The childminder 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 maintain documentation relating to the recording of existing injuries and complaints, she has fully complied with this and has appropriate records in place.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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

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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):

- maintain a system of two way communication with parents such as when sharing written records of their child's achievements

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