

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112521
Inspection date	26 September 2007
Inspector	Doreen Forsyth
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 1998. She lives with her husband in a detached house in Oakley, near Basingstoke, Hampshire. All of the home is suitable for childminding, there is an enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for up to six children under the age of eight; of these only three maybe under the age of five, currently there are five children on roll, aged one, three, five, six and seven who all attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and helps to organise the local childminding group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are kept well and healthy because the childminder follows suitable health and hygiene practices and is able to help children learn good hygiene routines, such as washing their hands

after using the toilet. If children should become ill or have an accident they are protected because the childminder has up to date, appropriate first aid training.

Children are encouraged to learn about healthy eating; parents provide packed lunches and milk for the baby, the childminder provides most snacks which are usually fruit, although the children occasionally have the less healthy option of biscuits as part of a varied and nutritious diet. Children are offered regular drinks. Children are able to sleep and rest according to their needs; at present the baby sleeps in his buggy, but the childminder has a travel cot to use as necessary.

Children have very good opportunities to play outside in the fresh air and to take part in regular physical activity. They play in the childminder's large, very well equipped rear garden, they often go for local walks and they walk home from school when the childminder is caring for school aged children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a welcoming, warm and safe environment. The childminder has risk assessed her home very well; she has identified and minimised any potential hazards. Safety gates keep the children in the areas of the home that the childminder uses for childcare. The large garden is secure, with a part of it fenced off for the children's use. All the necessary fire safety equipment is in place.

Children have access to a very good range of toys. These are stored in the play house in the garden when not in use. Each session the childminder chooses a large selection suitable toys for the day which are kept in boxes in the dining room and kitchen; the childminder creates a pleasant play space in her kitchen for the children. Children can choose freely what they wish to play with. In the attractive and safe garden there are wheeled toys, a trampoline, a play house and other suitable toys.

Children are well safeguarded because the childminder understands her role in child protection and is able to put appropriate procedures into place if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled with the childminder; they are involved in a broad range of suitable activities, planned by the childminder to support the children's learning and development. They enjoy exploring the good range of age appropriate resources and activities provided, such as small world play, playdough and cutting and sticking. The childminder ensures that children can follow their own routines of play, rests, meals and snacks and have plenty of opportunities for physical play. Children are able to explore their local environment when they go for walks in the village and nearby countryside.

Children have good opportunities to learn to interact with other children and adults when they attend the weekly local childminding group that the childminder helps to organise. Children receive very good attention and support from the childminder; she talks to them, is interested in what they say and questions them appropriately, encouraging them to think and put their thoughts into words. The childminder is constantly encouraging children's language development, she sings with them and tells them stories.

If children attend after school, they like to play outside, take part in craft activities, play games or watch some suitable television.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are valued and welcomed by the childminder, including those that may have learning difficulties or disabilities. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met. Children benefit from using a range of resources that help them to learn to value diversity, such as suitable books and dolls; the childminder discusses equal opportunity issues with the children as they arise.

Children are encouraged to behave appropriately, they are given lots of time and attention; the childminder is aware of different strategies such as diversion or 'time out', to use to encourage children's good behaviour if necessary. The childminder works closely with parents to manage any behaviour issues if required.

The childminder builds a good partnership with parents, they work together to promote the children's wellbeing. At the end of each session the childminder spends time exchanging information with parents. All the policies and procedures that the childminder uses, including the complaints procedure, are explained fully to parents when they first use the service as the childminder does not provide written information.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder and her husband have undertaken appropriate vetting procedures and are suitable to have contact with minded children. The childminder is very experienced and has attended all the required training. She organises her home, resources and time well to ensure children's wellbeing is promoted. All the necessary documentation policies and records that help to ensure children's health, safety and enjoyment are in place, however, the record of children's attendance is not accurately kept as some children who only attend occasionally are not recorded in the register.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was set three recommendations concerning record keeping, parental permissions and informing parents about the complaints procedures. The childminder has all the necessary documentation, permissions and records that help to promote children's health, safety and wellbeing in place, including a suitable complaints procedure. Parents are given verbal information about the complaints policies but do not receive any written details of the procedures or how they can contact Ofsted if they wish.

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

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):

- ensure children who attend occasionally are included in the register

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