



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	108073
Inspection date	15 November 2005
Inspector	Margaret Moffat
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?

The childminder registered in 1995. She lives with her husband and 2 adult, 4 school age and 1 pre-school child in Fifield near Maidenhead. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home and 2 bedrooms are available for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder's husband also works as an assistant.

The childminder's registration is to care for a maximum of 5 children at any one time and she is currently minding 8 children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder's registration includes overnight care. The childminder supports children

with special needs. She runs the local carer and toddler group and takes children to the local library and park. The family have a dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and has a current first aid certificate.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children flourish in a warm clean family home, where they learn about good hygiene and personal care; for example, establishing regular hand washing and teeth brushing routines at an early age. The childminder keeps all the areas the children use hygienically clean to prevent spread of infection. She is a good role-model, washing her own hands often and encouraging the younger children to learn about cleanliness through example. The childminder has all required documentation to record accidents, medication and health. She has considered the appropriate procedures to ensure the children's welfare whilst in her care. For example, she holds a first aid certificate and has a sick children policy in place.

Children engage in an excellent range of physical activities that help keep them healthy, such as swimming, gardening and playing on large apparatus. They develop a good sense of space and move confidently around all areas of the childminder's home. They access a good range of tools and equipment to develop fine motor skills; for example, glue stick and scissors in art and craft activities. Daily routines are followed and include times for active and quiet play and resting.

Children enjoy their food at snack and meal times and enjoy being involved in selecting the ingredients for their meals. They try new tastes, with encouragement through activities; for example, fruit tasting and have opportunities to be involved in cooking activities. They begin to understand about healthy eating and living through these activities. Meal and snack times are sociable; children sit at the table with the childminder and each other. The childminder discusses and records children's individual needs and parent's wishes to ensure she meets the needs of the children in her care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming home where they feel safe and secure. They move freely and easily around all areas of the home and in particular the playroom. They independently select toys and resources from the excellent range available. Toys and resources are maintained well and are of good quality. They are stored appropriately, are suitable, and age appropriate encouraging children's independent skills. Children confidently ask the childminder for other activities, which are not readily available such as gluing and sticking. Wall display's of children's art work and posters help promote children's self-esteem.

Children receive a high level of interaction and supervision from the childminder ensuring they can play safely in the home and garden. The childminder has identified and minimised potential hazards and uses risk assessments to reduce these. This includes checking the garden before children go out. She monitors resources to ensure these are appropriate for the ages of the children; such as, using real money for older children and toy money for younger children. Children learn to keep themselves safe in the home as they regularly practise the emergency evacuation procedure. They learn about road safety through discussions with the childminder and going on outings within the local community.

Children benefit from the clear understanding and training the childminder has undertaken on child protection. She is fully aware of the signs and symptoms to look out for and the procedures to follow if she has any concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy comfortable and have fun in the childminder's home. They talk to the childminder, visitors and each other in a friendly manner. They relate well to each other and socialise with other children through regular attendance at local toddler groups. Children become independent as they choose between a variety of toys and activities, which appeal to them. Children benefit from the excellent variety of themed and planned activities. For example, space activity instigated by the children; they are learning about space through books and making their own rockets. This stimulates conversation and imaginative play. All children spend their time purposefully. The children select books from the well stocked shelves and sit with the childminder for a story. She asks questions helping to develop their language skills. Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through the excellent range of activities such as designing their own t-shirts and cooking activities. Children experience a balance of active, quiet and developmental opportunities throughout their day.

The childminder is extremely warm and affectionate towards the children making them feel comfortable and valued. She develops excellent relationships with the children; she enjoys their company and knows them well. Children are confident in instigating their own games and the childminder readily joins in supporting them in their play and providing an environment that allows them to respond with enthusiasm to new challenges. The childminder spends a lot of time talking and playing with the children ensuring they are making good progress in all areas of development. Children experience regular interesting outings with the childminder to nearby woods and parks; they go fishing and enjoy picnics in the summer. These enjoyable outings provide further interest for the children and help them develop new skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are valued as individuals and treated with respect, helping them to feel secure and good about themselves. The childminder has a sound understanding of

equal opportunity issues and has a positive attitude towards diversity, this helps children develop an awareness of their own and other cultures. Children develop an awareness of the world around them through outings in the community, toys and resources that reflect different ages, race and gender. They have opportunities to meet members of the community such as police and fire, as arranged by the childminder at the drop-in groups.

Children receive encouraging praise and recognition for their positive behaviour and their efforts, which develops their self-esteem. They are well behaved, polite and respond to childminder's requests when they arise.

Children benefit from the friendly but professional relationships between the childminder and their parents. This includes excellent feedback and liaison about their care, daily diaries for younger children and regular discussions about their development. This enables effective communication and promotes the overall wellbeing of the children. Written feedback from parents highly praises the care offered to their children by the childminder. The childminder has very good procedures in place to provide care for children with special needs; this includes information in her policies, which she gives to parents in their parent pack. She also demonstrates a clear understanding of how she will meet their differing needs. Activities are adapted to suit individual children's abilities, ages and stages. She undertakes additional training to give them additional support; for example, Makaton.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder has a professional approach to childminding. She is extremely well organised which helps her provide for all the individual children's needs. Children are very at home and benefit from the well organised play space both indoors and outdoors. The environment is child orientated and the excellent variety of toys and resources ensures children are occupied and maintain their interests. They receive excellent support from the childminder who enjoys their company and knows them well, helping them feel secure and confident.

Parents and children benefit from the detailed documentation and records, effectively used to promote children's welfare, care and learning. This ensures parents are informed and involved in decisions about the care offered to their children. The childminder develops good relationships with the children as a result children are developing their own personal independence well. The childminder continues her professional development through regular training courses to further improve the service to children and their parents. 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 a record of visitors. The childminder now has a record of all visitors to her home during childminding hours. This further contributes to keeping children safe.

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 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 *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk