

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY348399
Inspection date 10 September 2007
Inspector Hazel Stuart-Buddery

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 2007. She lives with her husband and two teenage children in Ascot. The ground floor and gardens are used for childminding. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time and is currently caring for four children, one of pre-school age and three after school. The family have two pet cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Daily routines and explanation help children understand that washing hands at appropriate times reduces the risks of passing on germs. Children know that they should wash their hands after visiting the toilet. However, the spread of infection is not always prevented as the childminder does not always encourage younger children to wash hands before having a snack if they have been recently washed. Children receive appropriate care if there is an accident as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. All required documentation and parental consents are in place. This means children are cared for in accordance to parents' wishes.

Children benefit from healthy, nutritious meals provided by the childminder, all dietary and medical needs are discussed with parents and records on children's record forms.

Children have regular opportunities to develop their physical skills outside and get plenty of fresh air. A wide range of age appropriate garden equipment is accessible to the children. Large play equipment, such as a trampoline, is available for older children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a well-organised and accessible environment. This allows them to move around freely and safely. They have easy and safe access to a wide and interesting range of resources that are well maintained. Children play in a safe and secure environment because the childminder identifies and minimizes risks inside and out of the home. The childminder has obtained written consent from parents for children to use large play equipment, such as a trampoline. Smoke alarms and a fire blanket are installed to protect children from the risk of fire.

Children's welfare and safety is promoted. The childminder has a good awareness of child protection issues and of the procedures to follow should there be concerns. The childminder has a written policy that she shares with parents outlining what her responsibilities are with regard to child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play and learn in a stimulating environment. They have access to a wide range of interesting resources that they can select independently. They are happy and relaxed in the childminder's care. Babies happily wander around the room exploring and investigating the toys. They enjoy playing with the pop-up toys and jump with excitement as one button is carefully turned and the dog pops out. They smile and laugh to themselves and try hard to push the dog back down. The childminder asks what sound the dog makes and the children confidently say "woof woof". They smile proudly as lots of praise is given by the childminder. Older children slouch on bean bags, showing how relaxed they are, and enjoy listening to the sound they make with the electronic drums. They bang the drums over and over. The childminder joins in with a tambourine. The babies look from the side and enjoy the sounds, and excitedly join in when they too are given a tambourine. The childminder is warm and affectionate towards the children, who spontaneously come to her for cuddles and reassurance, particularly when she leaves the room. The children show good levels of self-esteem and confidence and as a result make good progress in their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated fairly and with respect. A good range of resources that reflect diversity are accessible for children to play with. The childminder has a good awareness of children's development. Individual routines of younger children are discussed with parents to ensure continuity of care is offered. Children begin to learn right from wrong and the childminder carefully and sensitively explains about sharing toys. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement, helping them to feel safe, secure and valued.

The childminder has a full set of written policies and procedures that all parents are given copies of. Written contracts are in place. She takes time on a daily basis to exchange information with the parents about the progress and achievements of their child.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and relaxed in a child friendly, loving environment. They receive good levels of help and support that helps them to feel safe and secure. Children benefit from a wide range of interesting resources and activities to keep them occupied and stimulated, which they can select independently.

The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards and has all required documentation in place. She discusses all elements of care with parents at the initial interview and on a regular basis. She has a full set of written policies and procedures that she provides for all parents. The childminder is aware of the current complaints procedure and has a written policy in place. She maintains her paperwork well. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- enhance hygiene procedures to prevent the spread of infection by ensuring children wash hands before snack time.

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