



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	259976
Inspection date	24 April 2006
Inspector	Myra Lewis
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 2002. She lives with her partner and son aged six years in Bentley Heath. Local amenities and bus routes are within easy access. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding and the bathroom is upstairs. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder walks or drives to and from local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local childminder group on a regular basis. She is registered to provide care for a maximum of four children under eight years. Currently there are five children aged between one and seven years on roll, who attend a variety of sessions.

The childminder holds a relevant childcare qualification and first aid certificate and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment. Their good health is positively promoted through the well established daily routines. Children are learning the importance of good hygiene practice, as they are actively encouraged to wash their hands after toileting, before eating and after playing in the garden. Each child has their own individual flannel to dry their hands, which is made easily accessible. They are learning to become independent and manage their self-care needs, with appropriate support from the childminder. She has effective nappy changing routines in place and takes necessary action to reduce the spread of infection, by observing good hygiene within the home.

Children walk to and from school each day and benefit from plenty of fresh air and the opportunities to learn and observe their surroundings. They can enjoy playing in the garden and enjoy many trips to the local park, where they sometimes take a picnic. They are taken to other places of interest, such as the zoo, to see the animals or to local soft play centres where they can extend their physical skills. Young children can rest and sleep according to their respective needs, which take account of parents' wishes.

Children are well cared for in the event of illness, as the childminder has a good understanding of first aid. There are effective procedures in place, to safeguard children's health, children's accident and medication records are all in place and maintained efficiently. Although, information regarding notifiable illnesses is limited. There is a well-stocked first aid box available, the contents of which are checked routinely.

Children are well nourished through the regular provision of healthy meals, snacks and drinks. Children's individual dietary preferences and routines are carefully respected, as the childminder works closely with the parents, to ensure children are benefiting from and enjoy their meal times. Sample menus demonstrate clearly healthy eating, for example, through the provision of fresh meat and vegetables such as chicken, broccoli, carrots and French beans. Children enjoy a variety of cooking activities for example, making fairy cakes or making their own sandwiches. They are also encouraged to select their own piece of fruit from the fruit shop. Therefore, children are encouraged to make healthy food choices. Mealtimes are a sociable occasion, where children gain independence and develop good table manners.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home where positive steps have been taken to make the home safe and secure for children. They are happy and settled, as the childminder provides a secure and welcoming environment, where children move around safely and independently, with easy access to a good variety of toys and resources. Space is used effectively, to provide children with opportunities for quiet and active playtimes.

All toys, resources and equipment are suitable for their purpose, in good condition and well maintained. Toys are kept clean and regularly checked, so that the risks to children are minimised. Children are very well supervised at all times by the childminder, both inside and outside the home. Any potential risk or hazard is identified and prompt action is taken to safeguard the children. They are learning to develop a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe as the childminder talks to the children about safe practices. For example, children practise road safety through discussion with the childminder. Attention to fire safety is good, the childminder talks to children about fire safety and has a written escape plan displayed. Therefore children's safety is effectively promoted.

Children's welfare is further protected as the childminder understands her responsibilities regarding child protection and knows who to contact, if she should be concerned. She has a written child protection policy that is shared with all parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's house. They have easy access to a good range of age-appropriate toys and resources. They are able to make independent choices about their play activities. Children become independent as they choose between a good variety of games, books, small world figures, construction toys and various craft activities. For example, lego bricks, marble run game, shape sorters, painting, collage and home play resources.

Children's development is well supported as the childminder knows the children very well and is aware of their individual needs. She provides a good balance of free play and adult-led activities in order for them to play freely and make good progress in their overall development. Children are actively encouraged to learn about colour, shape and sizes through everyday play situations, which further supports their learning.

Children have regular opportunities to play in the garden with a suitable variety of resources to support their physical development. For example, children enjoy playing on the slide and use the trampette to jump up and down on. They also have many opportunities to socialise with other children and adults, from regular attendance at the local parent and toddler groups, where they can enjoy a wider range of different play experiences.

The childminder is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and ensures younger children receive appropriate support and guidance, which increases their sense of well-being effectively.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal concern and benefit from lots of individual attention from the childminder. She offers appropriate support and guidance as children play and their interaction is good. Children learn about diversity through discussion with the childminder, she ensures they have equal access to toys and resources, regardless of their ability, gender or background. Children's individual routine needs are discussed and agreed with parents, on admission. Therefore, children feel at home in their surroundings as they follow their normal daily routines.

Positive behaviour is encouraged and children respond well to the childminder's calm and sensitive approach to behaviour management. She uses appropriate strategies to manage children's behaviour. Children respond to praise and encouragement and behave well. They are encouraged to share take turns and play together.

Children benefit from the open and friendly partnership between the childminder and their parents. All aspects of children's care needs are discussed with their parents. The childminder has a range policies and procedures that reflect the child-care services provided. Although, the complaints procedure does not reflect the recent changes in procedures, in line with the revised national standards. Time is made available each day, to share with parents, relevant information about their children's daily activities, thus ensuring parents are kept well informed at all times.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well supported by the childminder who makes good use of her home, the garden and local area. Children are able to access toys easily, they are happy, settled and feel a good sense of belonging. The daily routines are flexible and provide children with plenty of opportunities to play in the garden, visit the local park and enjoy trips to the local parent and toddler group. This provides children with a broader range of play experiences and children enjoy their time spent with the childminder.

Children's personal details are recorded effectively and stored securely. A good range of policies and procedures are shared with parents on admission. Both verbal and written information is shared daily with parents about their children's daily activities. The childminder has good relationships with parents and effective lines of communication established.

Children benefit from the childminders commitment to further training to develop her knowledge and skills to benefit the children in her care. She is currently working towards a Quality First award through the local authority early years department.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has improved resources by providing children with more independent play choices. Children can choose toys from the toy shelf or ask for specific toys from the large cupboard. She has also developed a range of written policies and procedures about her childminding practice which are shared with all parents.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004. 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):

- gain further knowledge of notifiable diseases
- ensure the complaints procedure is updated in line with revised national standards.

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