



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223725
Inspection date	08 March 2006
Inspector	Kathryn Mary Harding

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 has been registered since 1989. She lives with her husband and two children in the Shrewsbury area of Shropshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The property is situated within walking distance of the local school, pre-schools and local amenities. She is currently caring for one child under five years and nine children over five years on a part time basis.

The family have no pets.

The childminder 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 clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. The childminder's good understanding and implementation of good hygiene practices, such as using disposable gloves when changing nappies, means that children are protected from the spread of infection. However written parental consent is not in place to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for all children.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet and talk about what foods are healthy to eat. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and the children's choices to provide nutritious snacks, such as fruit and vegetables, that appeal to the children and meet their dietary requirements. Children are offered regular drinks such as juice and water so that they do not become thirsty.

Children enjoy and experience a wide range of activities both indoor and outdoor that enable them to develop their physical skills, such as hoops and skipping ropes. They go for walks and go to the park which all contribute to their physical development. They play with play dough and take part in craft activities which help their fine control skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment which is warm and where there is plenty of space for the children to play in. In order to help keep children safe the childminder checks and cleans the rooms prior to the children arriving. Safety precautions such as socket covers and stair gates are in place to help keep children safe.

Children independently select activities from a range of good quality toys and resources, which meet safety standards and are regularly checked and cleaned. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. She supervises the children at all times to ensure their safety. Children are encouraged to keep themselves safe as they talk about road safety when outside the home and the childminder encourages children to not run indoors.

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of child protection matters but has no leaflet available regarding what to do if there is a child protection concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident, settled and interested to learn. They happily and spontaneously sing nursery rhymes and familiar songs as they play. Close and caring relationships between the childminder and the children have formed, which increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self. Children's learning is extended, as the childminder encourages them to think, by asking open-ended questions, when talking about what number, shape and colour they can see. They listen well to stories, become involved in them and the childminder relays them in a lively way, so encouraging and motivating the children's interest in books.

Children engage in a wide range of activities which promote their overall development well, such as imaginary play, craft activities and construction sets. Positive relationships are formed as the childminder has fun with the children as they pretend to post letters in the doll's house and make a pretend snowman. The childminder ensures that children have good opportunities to develop social skills by taking them to toddler groups to meet other minded children.

Children choose and make decisions about their play, encouraging them to be independent learners. The childminder supports the children well in their play and asks them if they need any help when constructing the train track. The childminder has the 'Birth to three matters' pack and adapts activities to promote younger children's learning so ensuring that all children can take part in an activity if they choose to.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others is extended as the childminder has a range of toys and resources to positively reflect diversity. Children talk about different issues to make them aware of the wider world.

The childminder has high expectations and sets consistent boundaries for the children which help them learn to take responsibility for their own behaviour. The childminder, for example, calmly explains to the children why they should not jump on the sofa. Good manners are also encouraged so children learn to be considerate to each other.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Partnership with parents is good and parents are kept well informed about their child. Their individual needs are met well as the childminder regularly talks with parents about what they have done and if there have been any problems and always respects the way parents want things done. This ensures consistency of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are at home within the relaxed environment. They are confident to choose

their own activities and are effectively supported by the childminder who organises the play environment appropriately.

The childminder works appropriately to promote children's health, enjoyment and achievement. Confidentiality is maintained as all paperwork is stored securely. The certificate of registration is not displayed. Parents are therefore not aware of the conditions of registration.

Overall the children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that there was an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder now looks at different festivals and has a range of toys and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world.

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 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 that written parental permission is in place to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

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