



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 254938
Inspection date 06 March 2006
Inspector Karen Cooper

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 1994. She lives with her partner and two teenage children. They live in Wednesbury, Sandwell. The location is convenient for pre-schools, shops, schools and parks. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family's pets include two love birds and two cockatiels.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under the age of eight and is currently minding ten children on a part time basis. The childminder takes and

collects children from the local school and attends the local childminding and toddler group on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene through well-organised routines. They wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. The children stay healthy because the childminder takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection, for example in the event of illness parents are informed that their child must be excluded or collected as soon as possible. All relevant documentation regarding accidents and medication is in place and is kept confidential.

Children are provided with regular healthy snacks throughout the day and drinks are readily available, particularly for the younger children to ensure that they do not become thirsty. Food that is provided by parents is appropriately stored. Children's individual needs are well met and information is frequently shared with parents to ensure that their wishes are being respected.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They develop self-confidence in their physical skills as they use a wide range of indoor and outdoor toys and equipment such as push-a-longs and wheeled toys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a range of good quality toys, furniture and resources, which are safety-checked prior to use. The organisation of toys and activities means children can move around safely and independently. They are able to access available resources from tables, shelves and boxes at child height, which helps to create a stimulating, learning environment for children.

Children are cared for in a safe environment as suitable safety precautions are in place to minimise any potential risks. Appropriate safety equipment is used according to the age and needs of children attending. Children are beginning to learn about their own safety through discussion and explanation. They regularly practise emergency procedures and know where to go to stay safe. Appropriate fire equipment such as a fire blanket and smoke detectors are provided and are regularly checked to ensure they are in good working order. Thorough procedures are in place to ensure children are safe when on outings. Written consent is obtained from parents at registration for their child to be transported in a vehicle and contact numbers are available in case of an emergency.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's appropriate knowledge of child protection issues and of the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and secure in the childminder's home. The children move freely around the available space and select from a good range of resources independently. Younger children are confident in their relationship with the childminder and are encouraged to communicate and explore their environment. The childminder is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and is aware of the need to adapt activities to promote the children's learning. The children play happily with the shape sorters, cash register, plastic money and contently look at books.

Children have access to a wide variety of play and learning opportunities, which help them to make progress in their development including creative, imaginative and physical play. The environment is child-orientated and the children are able to make decisions about their play as they choose from the various well-placed toys and activities. Good use is made of the well-equipped outdoor space for more active play and exercise.

The children are helped to develop confidence and self-esteem through use of praise and the childminder shows an interest in the children's efforts and achievements. Examples of children's work that are displayed around the home encourage the children to have a sense of belonging. Good behaviour is acknowledged and the childminder ensures that it is highlighted during daily discussions with parents. Children are given frequent opportunities to socialise with other children through attendance at local toddler and childminding groups.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have access to a good range of activities and resources that promote a positive view of our wider world and which help to increase their understanding of others. Children are valued and respected as individuals and the childminder meets their needs well through daily routines, which are discussed and agreed with parents, for example sleeping and eating arrangements. The childminder would care for any child as long as she could meet their needs and endeavours to work in partnership with parents to ensure their child's needs are met.

Children play happily, are sociable and secure. They benefit from the childminder's use of a range of positive and appropriate methods of managing behaviour, which includes praise, distraction, explanation and the children are made aware of rules and boundaries to ensure their safety.

A comprehensive, clear and detailed portfolio is provided to parents about the childminding practice and service, which includes policies and procedures. Written agreements are clear and detailed and regular discussions with parents ensure that they are well informed of their child's daily events and progress.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at ease in an organised but homely environment and use the playroom to enjoy a variety of planned and spontaneous activities. The children are happy and settled and daily routines are flexible to meet their needs, which help the children to feel at home.

Children's records and the required information, which contributes to the children's health, safety and well-being, are in place. Contractual arrangements and permissions from parents are kept up to date and stored securely. However, the children's attendance records are not accurately maintained. Written and verbal information is shared on a regular basis with parents to ensure that they are informed of their child's daily events and progress. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure accident records include all relevant information.

Children are well taken care of in the event of an accident and accurate records are kept and shared with the parents and both the childminder and parent countersign all entries.

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 children's attendance records are accurately maintained.

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