



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	224392
Inspection date	09 May 2006
Inspector	Julie Mary Preston
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 1983 and works with an assistant. She lives with her husband in Etruria, Stoke on Trent. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an outside yard available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children including before and after school care and care during school holidays. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder visits the local parks, the local shops and visit the local library. The family has a dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and the local childminder network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home, where the procedures implemented by the childminder help children learn the importance of staying healthy. Children develop an understanding of good hygiene practices through daily routine activities completed with the childminder. For example, washing their hands before meals. Hand towels are changed on a regular basis which minimises the risk of cross infection to children. The childminder has an understanding of the procedures for dealing with sickness, existing injuries, accidents and administration of medication. However, medication consents are not sought for all children and they lack sufficient detail. This could lead to inappropriate administration of medication.

Children understand the benefits of a healthy diet through discussion and the range of meals and snacks provided by the parents and the childminder. Children are given regular access to drinks and snacks as they require them throughout the day. The childminder works in partnership with parents to meet children's individual dietary needs. If parents provide children's dietary requirements they are appropriately stored and served to children. This ensures individual dietary needs are met. The childminder is aware of good hygiene within food preparation and storage and reflects this within her practice.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities that contribute to their good health. Regular physical activities help children develop physical skills and gain control of their bodies. For example walks around the local environment, use of the local park, regular activity sessions and trips undertaken with the childminder. Children are given opportunities to rest or sleep in line with parental wishes and individual sleep patterns.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment where the childminder aims to ensure possible risks are identified and minimised. This means that children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder develops children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe and maintain safety both inside and outside the home. For example, she discusses road safety with the children. The home is maintained and offers a welcoming environment for children to play comfortably with the toys and equipment available.

The child friendly environment allows children to independently select activities from the wide range of toys, which are suitable for the age range of children attending. Toys are organised in storage boxes, on shelves and in cupboards that are provided at child height to allow easy access, with toys rotated to ensure variety.

The childminder has the required safety procedures in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, by providing smoke alarms, a carbon monoxide detector, a fire blanket and undertaking regular evacuation drills with children. The childminder

has a good understanding of child protection procedures that ensure children are protected from harm or neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and show enjoyment of their time in the childminder's care. They are developing confidence and make themselves at home. The children interact well with the childminder and with each other showing a clear bond that leads to positive relationships and a sense of belonging. Children gain confidence to express their needs and wants with the childminder. The childminder takes time to listen and make conversation with each child expanding on children's individual interests through discussion and questioning. This develops children's understanding.

Children experience a wide range of age-appropriate activities that promote development, encourage confidence, develop independence and promote self-esteem, such as independently selecting activities and resources. All children spend their time purposefully. Many of the activities are child led with the childminder supporting and extending children's learning. The childminder has a good knowledge of each child that attends and their individual capabilities. This enables her to adapt and extend activities to ensure each child gains the most out of each activity they participate in.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of equal opportunities and special needs issues. All children are treated as individuals and their needs met. Resources and activities provide positive images and develop children's understanding of themselves and the wider world, for example resources providing positive images and activities relating to specific festivals. This helps children's awareness of the wider world, develops positive attitudes and increases awareness of diversity and understanding of others.

Children are well behaved and show care and concern for each other as they take turns and show an understanding of their boundaries. The childminder applies a consistent approach to manage a wide range of children's behaviour. Positive use of praise and lots of encouragement helps to build children's self-esteem. Children make themselves at home, confidently deciding what to do. They have opportunities to rest and to be active within the daily routine.

The childminder promotes positive relationships with parents and works in partnership with them. Discussions are held with parents and children at the initial visits with ongoing discussions and observations undertaken on a daily basis to ensure individual children's needs are identified and met. The childminder ensures parents are fully aware of her procedures and how children will be cared for by providing written policies and procedures that she shares with parents during initial visits, by holding daily discussions with parents about children's care, achievements and their child's day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the relevant training requirements and is keen to attend additional training, this includes attending training relating to 'Birth to three matters' in order to further develop her practice in this area. The children feel comfortable and at ease within the childminder's home. The environment provided both inside and outside the home enables children to be confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Verbal and written policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Information is shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities and well-being. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Most required documentation is in place that is accurately completed and maintained. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to provide an incident log, update contracts provided with parents and to increase the range of equipment provided that reflect culture, gender and disability. The childminder has taken appropriate action as she now provides an incident log, has updated her contracts with parents and has provided a range of resources that reflect culture, gender and disability.

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):

- update medication records to ensure written consent is sought for all medication administered to children
- develop outcomes for children from birth to three by extending implementation of 'Birth to three matters'.

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