



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	209746
Inspection date	05 May 2006
Inspector	Lesley Jane Bott

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 satisfactory. 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 1992. She lives with her husband and adult son in a semi-detached house close to Stafford hospital. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding together with two bedrooms. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a total of five children under the age of eight years, and is currently looking after five children all on a part-time basis.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows good and appropriate health and hygiene policies and procedures. For example, she has a policy on sickness which is shared with parents. The implementation of this prevents the spread of infection and ensures there are arrangements in place to care for children if they become ill. However, parents do not give written consent for the administration of the medication, which could impact on the care given to the children.

Children are developing a good understanding of the importance of health and hygiene through the childminder participating in activities which promote this knowledge. Children follow good routines of personal hygiene and young children know when it is appropriate to wash their hands, for example, after going to the toilet and before eating.

Healthy eating is encouraged. Children's needs are met satisfactorily as the childminder offers a healthy and nutritious diet with fresh fruit and vegetables. Children's independence is developing and they are confident to help themselves to their own drink that is always kept readily available in individual cups. Children have the opportunity to develop their physical skills and enjoy a healthy lifestyle through regular visits to local facilities and weather permitting outdoor play in the back garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is warm and well maintained, this provides a welcoming environment to children and parents. Children are learning the importance of staying safe. The childminder has mostly identified and minimised hazards within the home. Home safety equipment, such as a fire guard and stair gate are in place to ensure that children can play safely. The childminder has not applied safety film to the new front glass door, and consequently the safety of the children is not being met. The fire blanket is stored in the utility room, but access to this is difficult because it is has been wrapped in cling film.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. 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. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues. She is able to put necessary procedures into practice if needed and acts in the best interest of the children at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a satisfactory range of activities for the children to choose from. Children are developing independence and self-assurance as they access activities easily

themselves. Children are happy and enjoy exploring the toys and equipment, for example, sticking and colouring at the table and playing with toys in the lounge.

The childminder interacts well with the children. She is interested in what they say and do and has a good relationship with the children. This helps children to be settled, secure and confident. Children have opportunities to meet other children and explore the wider environment through visits to local toddler groups and the home of another childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has appropriate strategies for managing behaviour. Children are developing an understanding of right and wrong. The consistent behaviour boundaries set by the childminder help children feel secure knowing what they can and cannot do. Good behaviour is valued and encouraged and in turn children behave very well. Children are developing a respect for the needs of others. They have a positive relationship with the childminder and with each other. The childminder knows the children well. She finds out about their individual needs and ensures that these are met, for example following parents routines for potty training. Although there are no children currently attending the setting who have special needs the childminder is able to provide care which includes them in the life of the setting through discussing their needs with parents.

Children are not sufficiently learning about the diversity of the world as the childminder lacks resources and a positive knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities. The childminder works in partnership with parents and promotes positive relationships with them. Her satisfactory communication with parents contributes effectively to the continuity of children's care. Parents' wishes are respected and there are satisfactory systems in place to keep them informed about the provision and their children's day.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's self-confidence is promoted well through indoor space being used appropriately to offer children an environment in which they can play freely as well as quiet areas for rest and sleep. The childminder organises her time effectively to enable her to offer sufficient adult support in which children can be settled and secure.

The childminder ensures that most paperwork is up to date and in place for children. However the register is not kept up to date to reflect accurately the children's attendance. This is stored securely to maintain confidentiality. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a recommendation was raised to ensure that the childminder obtains written permission from parents for emergency medical treatment. Since the last inspection, the childminder has taken positive steps to improve the health and safety of children. She now

obtains prior written consent from parents to seek emergency medical treatment for all children in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, Ofsted has received one complaint. Concerns were raised that the childminder was minding over her numbers. This was investigated fully and Ofsted is satisfied that the National Standards have been met and can confirm that the registered person remains qualified for registration.

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 satisfactory. 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 consent is gained from parents for medication
- make sure that the fire blanket in the kitchen can be accessed quickly in an emergency and safety film applied to glass
- increase knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities and ensure that children have access to a broad range of resources which reflect diversity
- ensure that the register is kept up-to-date.

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