



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	224282
Inspection date	07 June 2006
Inspector	Karen Eunice Millerchip
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?

This childminder has been a childminder since 1989. She lives with her partner and three children aged 6, 20 and 22 years. They live in a house in the Binley area of Coventry. There is a primary school, pre-school and toddler group within walking distance. The whole of the ground floor, and the bathroom facilities on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for five children and currently minds three children on a full and part-time basis. Children frequently attend local community groups and visit other childminders.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a suitable range of activities that contribute to their good health. They are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Children understand that they must wash their hands after going to the toilet, before food and after playing in the garden. Children are protected from infection by the childminder's sound practice to maintain hygiene standards in the home. A verbal sick children's policy, which parents are informed of, protects other children in her care. All accident and medication records are up to date and the childminder demonstrated a satisfactory understanding of first aid in young children.

Children take part in appropriate activities which involves physical exercise, energetic play and fresh air. There is a good selection of equipment in the garden, children go for regular walks, have picnics and play ball games on the nearby green. The children's dietary needs are appropriately catered for either by the parents or childminder. The childminder provides healthy snacks and drinks in addition to packed lunches brought from home. Parents share information with the childminder on the children's preferences and individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. They are able to move freely around the house and garden because potential hazards have been minimised by the use of safety equipment and the childminder's good supervision. The premises are secure and children know where they can play safely and understand the restriction of safety gates and locked cupboards. Toys and resources are in good condition, for indoor and outdoor play and children have independent access to activities and resources. Children are learning to keep themselves safe. The childminder encourages their awareness and confidence through discussion and good practice about road safety and 'stranger danger'.

Children are protected from fire in the home as the childminder has put precautions in place such as smoke detectors, which are tested on a regular basis and a fire blanket which is readily available. A written emergency evacuation plan is in place and children discuss the routine. However, all children have not had the opportunity to practise it.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. They benefit from an enjoyable range of activities which are planned by the childminder but are suitable for the age of children attending. The children develop independence through making choices and moving freely within the home. Children have individual work folders that contain art work and drawings, this enables the childminder to keep track of children's progress and gives children a sense of pride in their work.

The children have developed positive relationships with each other and the childminder. They regularly visit other childminders and local community groups where they can socialise in a safe and stimulating environment. They enjoy a balanced day of activities that allows for quiet times, rest and outdoor play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's organisation of activities ensures that all children are included and appropriately supported. Children are offered a range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of their wider environment and an understanding of others. They are becoming aware of different people in society and their local community through the use of good quality toys and resources such as multicultural play figures, jigsaws and books and going for walks and using local amenities. The children are respected and valued as individuals and the childminder encourages a sharing, caring environment.

Children are well behaved. Children are learning right from wrong as the childminder reminds them of the house rules and uses praise and encouragement to promote good behaviour. Age appropriate methods are used to manage children's behaviour.

The children's care is well fostered from the positive relationship the childminder has established with their parents. Regular verbal information is exchanged with parents to ensure changing needs are identified and provided for.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a relaxed, homely environment. They have sufficient space to play in comfort indoors and outside. They enjoy a balanced day wherein the daily routine fits into their needs with a good mix of directed and free activities. Daily information is exchanged with parents to promote the welfare of the children and ensure changing needs are identified.

All documentation for the safe management of the children is in place. The childminder's records are up to date, well maintained and stored appropriately. The children are happy and content and the childminder's practice is effective in producing a friendly environment. Children have suitable opportunities to access activities that support all areas of learning. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to improve record keeping with regards to accidents and administering of medication; improve knowledge of local child protection procedures and guidance; closely supervise children on the landing and stairs and extend the range of toys and resources which reflect positive images of culture and disability.

All required documentation and written consent from parents is in place for each child. Thereby promoting children's health and well-being. The childminder has also compiled up to date

information regarding local child protection procedures and guidance to further support children's welfare.

Children are given more opportunities to learn about different people in society through the use of multicultural play figures, books, jigsaws and discussions when out and about in the local community.

The stairs and landing are now better protected to keep children safe, however younger children are still directly supervised when going upstairs.

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 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):

- protect children's well being by practising the emergency evacuation procedure.

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