



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	228369
Inspection date	19 May 2006
Inspector	Kashma Patel
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 registered in 1989. She lives with her partner and their two children aged eight and nine years. They live in a third floor flat in the Leebank area of Birmingham, which is within walking distance of the city centre. The whole of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered for five children under eight years and is currently caring for two children after school.

The childminder walks to local schools to collect children. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA)

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are being protected against the spread of infection because the childminder has good hygiene routines in place. Children are aware that they need to wash their hands and faces after food, they have individual flannels to promote their hygiene and reduce risk of cross-infection. Children commented that they washed their hands to make them clean. The childminder promotes children's health by ensuring that furniture and equipment is cleaned with a anti-bacterial spray.

Children are aware of the benefits of exercise, they commented that it made them strong and healthy. They enjoy staying fit by skipping and playing on the climbing frame. They have access to a range of equipment which promotes their gross-motor skills, children commented that they like to ride on the scooters and play football. Children benefit from daily walks from the school which ensures they have fresh air daily.

Children are extending their knowledge about healthy eating and commented on foods which were good for them. They enjoy a range of fruits which include plums, oranges and pineapple. Children's dietary requirements are met in accordance with parents wishes. Children are kept hydrated as they access drinks freely, a bottle of juice is made up by the childminder and stored in the kitchen.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to understand how to keep themselves safe, for example they know that its safe to cross the road at the lights or where they see the crossing warden. The childminder discusses fire safety with the children but they do not have opportunities to practice emergency evacuation, and this compromises their safety within the home. Children commented about fire procedures at school, and the need to take registers during the drills.

Children use a range of safe and developmentally appropriate resources that are easily accessible to encourage their independence. The childminder carries out regular checks on items of equipment used to ensure they are suitable for children to use safely.

Children are well protected because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures and is aware of her role and responsibility to protect the children in her care. Parents have been made aware of the child protection procedures so that they know what action she will take if she has any concerns about their children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and confident in the childminders care and make themselves at home. They enjoy a range of learning experiences and activities that the childminder offers, however children

have limited opportunities for messy activities such as paint and dough. Children benefit from regular outings, they commented that they enjoyed riding on the bus to the nature centre.

Children know the childminder very well and have a positive relationship with her, engaging in conversation and confidently making requests for different activities. Children's individual needs are met by the childminder who provides them with opportunities to initiate their own play, as well as a flexible routine which allows opportunities to relax after being at school. The childminder also supports children with their homework if they require help.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning to use and value community resources, such as local libraries, parks and leisure centres. Children have some opportunities to learn about each other's similarities and differences through a range of resources, but there is no equipment which promotes disability. The childminder has not cared for children with special needs, but would promote the welfare of children with additional needs.

Children behave well and respond to the childminder's clear and consistent expectations about acceptable behaviour. They share, take turns and show consideration for younger peers, children were observed helping younger children with their activity. Their self-esteem is encouraged through consistent praise and their achievements are shared with parents.

The childminder has good relationships with parents, she spends time talking to them on a daily basis about their children's day at school and with her. Parents commented that their children were happy and settled with the childminder. They are kept well informed about children's daily routines and activities.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that ratios are met and maintained to allow children to receive good individual attention. Children move around the home with ease, they are well settled in the childminder's care and as a result they are independent and make choices of what they want to do.

Most documentation which contributes to children's well-being is in place however, the childminder was not aware that a record needs to be kept of any complaints she may receive. The childminder has also received a disclosure application form for both her and her partner, but these have not been completed and returned. This impacts on children's safety over the suitability of household members.

Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop a policy for sick children, to devise a emergency evacuation plan, to keep an accurate register of attendance, to obtain a copy of child protection procedures, and to increase range of positive images reflecting areas of equality.

The childminder now has policy for sick children, which promotes their welfare, their safety has also improved as the childminder keeps an accurate register of children's attendance. She has discussed emergency evacuation with the children, but has not practised fire drills with the children, this impacts on their awareness of fire safety within the home. The childminder has obtained a copy of child protection procedures which means that children are being protected against possible child abuse.

The childminder has increased her selection of positive images reflecting equality, but still lacks resources which promote children's awareness of disability.

Complaints since the last inspection

Concerns were raised regarding supervision of children, the provision of meals and the breakdown of communication between a parent and the childminder. These concerns relate to National Standard 1: Suitability, National Standard 8: Food and Drink and National Standard 12: Working in Partnership with parents and Carers. Ofsted made an unannounced visit to the childminder and raised three actions; ensure all persons over 16 years old living in the household have obtained a criminal records check; ensure the daily record of attendance is accurate and up to date; ensure the written agreement with parents sets out the expectations of both parties as to the care of the child, activities provided and business arrangements. The childminder has completed all the actions. Ofsted is satisfied and the childminder 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):

- improve fire safety by practising and recording fire drills with the children

- improve opportunities for children to access messy play, such as paint
- increase the range of resources reflecting positive images disability
- ensure there is a procedure for investigating and recording complaints
- ensure all members of the household who are over 16 have completed a disclosure form

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