



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223880
Inspection date	04 April 2006
Inspector	Tracey Marie Boland

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. Her home is situated in a suburb of Coventry approximately three miles north-west of the city centre. Local schools are a short walk away as are local shops and amenities. She lives with her husband and their four children; all aged over 16 years. Her husband is also a registered childminder and they are both registered to work with assistants.

Play space is available in the lounge and dining room and some activities take place in the kitchen. The large back garden is not currently used.

The family have no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children under 8 when minding alone and when minding with an assistant may care for 7 children under 8 years. Currently 3 children are cared for before and after school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, well-maintained environment. They learn the importance of appropriate hygiene practices and personal care through daily routines. They are encouraged to wash their hands after toileting and liquid soap is provided.

Children's needs are met at times of illness. Clear information is shared with parents which outlines when their child should not attend, and that they will be contacted and be expected to collect their child if the child becomes ill whilst in the care of the childminder. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and stocked first aid box. Minor accidents are dealt with appropriately and the required documentation completed and shared with parents.

Individual dietary needs are known and respected and children enjoy choosing from a variety of snacks before and after school. Drinks of milk and water are freely available so they do not become thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is maintained through the appropriate safety steps that have been taken within the home environment. The childminder has identified potential risks and taken steps to minimise them. Children move freely and safely around the home and are able to access toys and resources. They learn about keeping themselves safe within the home and when out. Regular discussion ensures children are aware of road safety, 'stranger danger' and not to approach dogs when out.

A clear fire evacuation procedure is in place and the children are aware of the action to take in an emergency situation. However, they have not practised this yet which may compromise their safety in the event of a fire.

Children's welfare is well protected through the childminders understanding of her role and responsibility with regard to child protection issues. Children are appropriately supervised at all times and are not left unattended with people who have not been vetted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settled and confident. Clear relationships have been formed with the childminder and interaction is good. Activities and resources are well maintained and freely available. A suitable variety of experiences are available and children are supported and encouraged by the childminder, who is aware of their interests and favourite activities. These include construction sets, dressing up, role play, books and puzzles. Time is spent playing board games and encouraging social skills.

Children are encouraged to talk about their day at school and their interests. They enjoy reflecting on things they have done with their families at the weekends. Children are independent in everyday routines and when using the bathroom.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's understanding of diversity and the wider world is encouraged through discussion with the childminder. They share information about cultural and religious celebrations throughout the year and learn to appreciate each other's similarities and differences. Children are respected and valued and they receive individual care and attention that meets their needs. Resources which reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability are freely available.

Children benefit from clear and consistent communication between the childminder and their parents, which ensures continuity of care. Information is obtained from parents during the initial settling in period for the child. Daily discussion takes place thereafter to keep them informed and updated about their child's day and clear verbal policies detailing the care provided is shared with them.

Children and parents are aware of the rules and boundaries in place regarding behaviour. Clear and consistent strategies are used. For example, distraction, discussion and time away from the situation. The childminder adjusts these depending on the age and understanding of the individual child. Good behaviour is encouraged at all times through praise and encouragement.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are settled and relaxed in a well organised homely environment. Clear routines ensure their needs are met effectively and there is ample space for them to move freely around. Procedures are effective in promoting their welfare, care and learning and the childminder's practice is effective in meeting the needs of individual children in her care.

All required information and consent from parents has been obtained, is well maintained and easily accessible. Confidentiality is maintained at all times. Good partnership with parents is enhanced through clear communication and the sharing of policies, which ensures parents are kept fully aware of the care provided. The

childminder has a commitment to continually develop her own skills and knowledge by accessing training through the local authority.

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 public liability insurance covered assistants. Insurance has been obtained and documentation includes permission from the parents for their child to be cared for by an assistant. This ensures that children's welfare is safeguarded.

She was also asked to ensure the garden was made inaccessible to minded children. The children are not allowed in the garden and the back door is secure throughout the day. Therefore, children's safety is maintained as the garden is not suitable for use presently.

The childminder was asked to ensure consent was obtained from parents before medication was administered to children. This has been actioned appropriately maintaining good partnership with parents and safeguards children when medication is required.

She was also asked to develop the resources available that reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability. Resources are available that encourage the children's understanding of the wider world. Books, dolls, dressing up and discussion takes place to encourage the children's understanding.

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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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 are aware of the fire evacuation drill and have the opportunity to practise it.

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