



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401345
Inspection date	11 May 2006
Inspector	Elizabeth Patricia Edmond
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 1989. She lives with her husband in a semi detached house situated within walking distance of the parks, beach and town centre. There are links with the local primary school where children are taken and collected. Mainly the ground floor of the house is used for childminding; children only go upstairs to access the bathroom. There is an enclosed back garden available for outside play.

There are currently five children under eight on roll who attend various part time sessions; older children also attend. The childminder keeps a dog and a bird as pets. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn about sensible hygiene practices. The young children confidently use the upstairs bathroom independently and the childminder helps them to wipe their hands afterwards. Sensible nappy changing procedures further reduce the risk of infection. The arrangements in place to maintain hygiene in relation to the family dog means that children enjoy the supervised contact.

The childminder does not provide meals but satisfactory arrangements are in place for serving snacks or convenience food provided by parents. The children's health benefits from the extra fruit and drinks provided by the childminder and she explains clearly to them that they can have water because to have more juice would spoil their pretty teeth.

The children develop a positive approach to being active in the outdoors. The children play outdoors most days throughout the year; the young children enjoy the range of equipment in the enclosed garden and develop their physical skills on the slide or small trampoline. School aged children enjoy playing on the pogo stick with their friends at the front of the property with parents' permission. This addresses their growing need for independence whilst remaining within sight or sound of the childminder.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are able to play freely because immediate risks are identified and minimised. For example, safety equipment is in place and the premises are secure. Each child has a wrist band with the childminder's phone number for when they are out. This promotes their safety should they become separated from the childminder. The childminder makes a point of talking to the children about their safety when they are out. Consequently, they are very clear about holding hands and not talking to people they do not know.

There are emergency evacuation procedures in place but these have not been practised with all children. This would hinder a speedy evacuation. The children can help themselves freely to a range of play equipment which is in good condition.

The children are suitably protected because of the childminder's commitment and previous experience of protecting children. However, she does not have the current local Area Child Protection Committee Guidelines or the national guidance 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused - Summary.' This would impede the effective handling of any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are happy and settled at the childminder's house and they enjoy their time there. They develop positive relationships with the childminder, her grandchildren and the other

minded children. The childminder encourages the children to help with the babies by passing toys and talking to them. This further promotes positive relationships and develops their self-esteem.

The children develop their communication skills and a keen interest in books and stories. The young children rummage for their favourite book and snuggle comfortably onto the childminder's lap. The children chat about their favourite characters and they link their favourite book of fishes to their home life. Sometimes the childminder helps older children with their books that they bring from school. The children enjoy drawing pictures. The childminder talks to them about their pictures; for example, she helps them to name the colours they are using and to count the legs they draw on the spider. This promotes their creative and mathematical development.

The young children develop their imagination and their understanding of their environment by playing with the small world equipment. They arrange the people in the lego police station while the childminder chats to them about what the people might be doing. The children are then fascinated as the childminder points out a real police car turning around in the cul-de-sac; they wave cheerfully at the video camera on its roof, wondering if the policeman can see them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder gets to know about the children and their home life. The children are settled and happy when the childminder chats to them about their family members, their holidays or their pets. The childminder draws the young children into adult conversations so that they feel valued and able to contribute to the inspection process.

The children are relaxed, confident and behave very well. The childminder has a good understanding of how to use praise and encouragement to maintain positive relationships and a pleasant atmosphere. The children beam with pride as they are praised for their beautiful pictures, for managing the stairs unaided and for holding onto the buggy when they are out.

The children benefit from the childminder's positive relationships with the parents. They spend time each day chatting about the day's events and the children's care routines. Most of the necessary documentation is in place for recording parents' wishes, although the childminder does not have written permission from parents to seek medical advice or treatment in an emergency; also, whilst parents have given verbal permission for their older children to play at the front of the house with their friends after school, this is also not in writing. This could lead to misunderstandings. The childminder does not yet have a system for recording any complaints made by parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are able to play freely in a suitably organised childminding environment. The children easily able to help themselves to the play equipment in the toy-box and they enjoy the easy access to the back garden in better weather.

The childminder organises her day around the individual needs of the children. She makes sure that the children get to school on time and that the younger ones have a rest so that they will be awake in time for the school collection. The childminder keeps information from school so that she can support the children there too when parents are busy. For example, she takes the children to watch their older siblings at school events, such as sports day.

Most of the required documentation is in place and suitably organised in a folder. However, the childminder does not keep up to date with guidance and information; this has led to some gaps in her documentation. Overall the needs of all the children attending are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder did not have a valid first aid certificate. She has now completed the required training which significantly improves the safety of the children. The childminder was also asked to obtain parents' written permission to seek medical advice or treatment in an emergency. The childminder has now purchased publications to do this but parents have still not signed the appropriate consent. This remains an area for improvement.

In answer to a further recommendation, the childminder now has some resources showing positive images of cultural diversity. The children show their acceptance and enjoyment of diversity by chatting happily to the childminder about the characters in her favourite 'Ballamory' book. The childminder now records the children's daily attendance in a notebook. This was up to date and made available at inspection. This meets the requirements as set out in the National Standards.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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 the local Area Child Protection Committee Guidelines and the government advice 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused - Summary' is kept on file for advice
- ensure that parents give written permission to seek medical advice or treatment in the event of an emergency and to clarify that their older children may play to the front of the house
- establish a system for logging any complaints made by parents
- improve the children's safety by practising the emergency evacuation procedures.

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