



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY309871
Inspection date	01 June 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 was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and two children, aged four years and aged eighteen months. They live in a house in Chesterton, Staffordshire, close to local schools and within walking distance of shops and parks. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. The family has two dogs, two rabbits and

some tropical fish.

The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association, and also the Chesterton childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is clean and tidy. Good hygiene practices are promoted well. Children are learning about the importance of good health and hygiene through daily routines, such as hand washing before meals and after toileting. Established routines are followed between the parents and the childminder and children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs. The effective written and practised procedures for sick children ensures that the best interests of all children are met if they are unwell.

Healthy eating is encouraged. Processed and sweet foods are discouraged and children are encouraged to eat fresh fruit and vegetables. Dietary needs are discussed with parents to ensure that preferences are respected and special dietary needs are met. A weekly menu is displayed for parents to inform them of the options available to their children. Children's independence is developing and they are confident to help themselves to their own drink that is readily available and accessible to them. Opportunities for the children to be outdoors at the childminder's home are sufficient, and children are developing physical skills through outings to the park and other local facilities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has mostly identified and minimised hazards within the home, and children are learning the importance of staying safe. Although keys are left in the back door which could allow children to gain access to outside. Home safety equipment such as a stair-gate, fire guard and safety film on glass panels in the doors ensure that children can play safely in the lounge. Children are able to choose from toys that are clean, safe and suitable for their purpose.

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 interests 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. They are developing independence and self-assurance as they access activities and equipment themselves. The childminder has an understanding of children's developmental stages and adjust activities to promote all areas of development, particularly during the school holidays.

The childminder interacts well with the children. She is interested in what they say and do and has a good relationship with them. 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 local childminding network.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing an understanding of right and wrong. The childminder has written policies for managing behaviour, and the consistent boundaries set help children feel secure knowing what they can and cannot do. Good behaviour is valued and encouraged and children are happy and confident. The childminder knows the children well. She finds out about their individual needs and ensures that these are met with discussion with the parents. Although the childminder has no experience of providing care for children having identified special educational needs, she is aware of children's developmental stages. Consequently, she would discuss any special requirements and deal with these sensitively.

Children are learning about the diversity of the world around them as the childminder has a good understanding of how to promote positive images effectively. She has a good variety of equipment and resources to promote this. The childminder works well in partnership with parents and promotes positive relationships with them. Parents' wishes are respected and there are good systems in place to keep them informed about the provision and their children's day with written and verbal feedback.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has a comprehensive range of written policies and procedures that she shares with parents to ensure that the welfare and care of children is promoted. She keeps all necessary paperwork and information about children stored securely to maintain confidentiality. Children's self-confidence is promoted through the display of their art work, posters and certificate which add to an inviting atmosphere for parents. However written consent has not been gained from parents in respect of outings, emergency medical treatment and photos. This could impact on children's care in the case of an emergency. Indoor space is used appropriately to offer children environments 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 settle and secure.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the 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 risks and hazards are identified and reduced effectively inside the house
- ensure that written consents are gained from parents in respect of outings, emergency medical treatment, photos and application of sun cream.

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