



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	257564
Inspection date	23 June 2006
Inspector	Rebecca Brittle
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 2001. She lives with her husband and three children aged fourteen, eleven and seven in a house in Olton, Solihull. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools, nurseries and playgroups to take and collect children. She attends the library and takes children to the local park. The childminder has a dog.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding three children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop physical skills such as balancing and jumping because the childminder offers regular opportunities to play outside. The childminder administers appropriate first aid and keeps records of all accidents. However, accident records do not always detail the nature of any injury sustained. Clear procedures for the administration of medication are in place but not all records are signed by the parents to acknowledge entries in the written record. This potentially compromises children's good health. Children sleep and rest according to their needs and their safety is maintained because the childminder makes regular checks on them. Children learn about good hygiene through daily routines such as regular hand washing.

Children are adequately hydrated because the childminder offers regular drinks which are increased in warm weather. All meals and snacks are provided in accordance with parental wishes, including specific dietary requirements. Children are encouraged to eat at their own pace which helps them develop a positive attitude towards food. As a result, children are suitably nourished.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable because the childminder maintains the house at an appropriate temperature and prepares the environment before they arrive. This means they can play immediately, helping them to settle. Children move around the house and garden freely, making choices between activities. They have access to a varied range of toys and resources both indoors and outside. All equipment is safe and suitable because the childminder checks it regularly. Children may self-select from the range of toys as they are stored at their level. They have access to some resources reflecting positive images of race, gender and ability, though this equipment is limited.

The childminder places emphasis on maintaining children's safety both inside and out of the house. For example, rugs are secured to the wooden floor to ensure they do not pose a slip hazard. Children learn to keep themselves safe through consistent implementation of rules such as having to hold hands to cross the road. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder understands her responsibility regarding child protection. She has a clear understanding of possible signs of abuse and the procedure to follow in the event of an allegation against her.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children take part in a range of activities which they find interesting and enjoyable. The childminder makes sure they are occupied by offering a balance between structured activities and free play opportunities. She encourages children in self-initiated play. For example, if children play in the sand and ask for some water to make it wet, the childminder allows each

one a container of water. This enhances children's learning and development. Children also experience a different environment when they visit places such as the local library.

The childminder supports children appropriately as they play. She observes them and intervenes if necessary, offering suitable support and guidance. Children approach her easily, talking to her about what they are doing. Children play well together, sharing and taking turns.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated and respected as individuals. They develop self-esteem and confidence because the childminder praises them as they play. The childminder meets all children's needs appropriately, after discussing them with parents. All children are invited to take part in the full range of activities, regardless of their attendance pattern. The childminder does not currently care for any children with special needs, though suitable procedures are in place to do so.

The childminder has a clear and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour. She talks to children about what they are doing and the reasons why it is unacceptable. As a result, children know and understand what is expected of them. Children respond well to the regular praise the childminder gives them. Parents are kept fully informed of all issues relating to their child, through daily discussion. Parents and the childminder sign a written agreement so both parties are aware of all aspects of care. The childminder does not maintain a complaints log.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has satisfactory regard for the children in her care. She ensures they are protected from anyone not vetted by not leaving them alone with anyone. The childminder is keen to update her practice through attendance at further training and has recently completed a food handling course. Children benefit from a good level of adult support and positive interaction while still developing independence. The childminder keeps a record of children's attendance though it is not up to date.

The childminder maintains most of the required documentation. All paperwork is stored securely in order to maintain confidentiality and retained for the required length of time. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder agreed to develop her knowledge and understanding of special needs and ensure the fires are made inaccessible or inoperable. The childminder understands that all children have individual needs and if asked to care for a child with special needs she would discuss their care plan with parents. The fire in the front reception room is unplugged with the plug kept out of children's reach and the fire in the rear reception room is fitted with a fireguard, maintaining children's safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 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):

- ensure accident records contain the nature of any injury sustained and obtain parental signatures to acknowledge entries in the medication book
- maintain a log of complaints made by parents and an accurate record of children's attendance
- increase the range of resources reflecting positive images of race, gender and disability.

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