



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY319851
Inspection date	15 September 2006
Inspector	Samantha Jayne Taylor
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 good. 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 2006. She lives in Sutton Coldfield with her husband and three children aged 1, 4 and 6 years. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. She is registered to care for no more than 3 children under 8 years at any one time. She is currently minding four children, two who are aged six years, one who is five years and one who is eight years.

The family has a cat and a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to be independent and they learn to take care of their personal needs, for example they wash their hands following playing in the garden. They are protected through the childminder's good knowledge and practice, for example accident and medication procedures. Older children are encouraged to persist in difficult tasks such as learning to unbuckle and fasten their roller skates. As a result, children's confidence is built and their self-help skills are developed.

Children's individual dietary needs are excellently catered for; care and attention is offered with regards to their requirements. Arrangements for meals and snacks are discussed with parents whilst older children talk to each other about their favourite fruits, such as kiwi, grapes and apples. They freely access drinks such as milk, water and fruit juices.

The garden area is used well to stimulate children's interest in the natural world. They have fun as they climb the large apparatus to see if they are "as tall as the trees". In consultation with parents further outdoor activities are arranged, such as picnics in the park. This means that children not only have fun but that their health is promoted through the outdoor experiences provided.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder warmly welcomes children and their families into the setting. The areas available for play are inviting to children. They are confident in their environment and they benefit from the relationships, which are established.

A wide range of developmentally appropriate equipment is available to children to meet their individual needs. Children freely access a range of resources, which helps them to develop their independence skills. Consideration is given to fire safety with children having the opportunity to practise the fire drill and discuss their personal safety when indoors and when walking to and from school. Whilst the childminder has knowledge of health and safety issues the risk assessment is incomplete. This means that most risks to children are minimised.

Child protection procedures are discussed with and shared with parents. The childminder is knowledgeable in identifying causes for concern, which together with knowledge and understanding held of her responsibilities helps to protect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's development is promoted effectively through a stimulating range of indoor and outdoor activities. The childminder is knowledgeable of children's individual needs and interests

and she spends time asking children what they like to play with. As a consequence, children are secure; enjoy attending the setting and they relate well to the childminder and to her family.

Children choose freely between activities available. They love to play in the sand outdoors and they are exuberant as they observe changes made, for example as they pour water into the dry sand to make mud. Children explore the texture through touch and they devise their own language to express how it feels, such as "it's squeegee". Their mathematical understanding is reinforced as they pour water into different shaped containers and count their mud pies. Children have fun as they play with balls; climb apparatus; jump on space hoppers and play imaginatively in the children's outdoor play house. As a result of the stimulating opportunities offered to children they make good progress in all areas of their development.

The childminder further encourages children's creative development through story telling and puppetry. Children laugh and engage in conversation with the persona puppet. Children freely choose from accessible books and they learn to handle books with care. They develop good language skills through the childminder's effective modelling and experiences offered, such as sitting and reading books together.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are introduced to a range of toys and resources through experiences within and outside the setting. The activities provided are fun, varied and include resources which reflect positive imagery, for example books. As a consequence, children learn to develop a positive attitude to others through the experiences offered.

The childminder discusses at the onset of care children's health, likes and dislikes and daily routine to ensure the children are happy in her care. Children and parents visit the setting to experience at first hand the care that is offered. This allows children time to explore and become confident in their surroundings.

The childminder gives individual attention, works closely with parents and shares daily information with home. This helps to build positive relationships between the childminder and home. She is knowledgeable in current revised guidance regarding the complaints procedure. This means that continuity of care is promoted as full information is available to share with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is experienced in caring for young children. As a result, she is knowledgeable in meeting children's individual needs and supporting children in their learning. The home and outdoor area is organised well in order to meet the children's needs, develop their interests, independence and consequently their self-esteem.

Children access all areas throughout the house and there is a room designated for play and a dining area where children sit together to eat. As a result effective use is made of space available

and children can be separated, for example age bands to allow them to pursue individual interests.

The childminder is effective in completing and maintaining required documentation, all of which is stored in a confidential and appropriate manner. Children are well supported and excellently cared for by the childminder who welcomes children into a setting which is a family environment. Individual attention is offered and children have their own personal file. This means that children thrive, feel welcomed and have fun. Overall, the provision meets the needs 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 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 good. 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 on the risk assessment to identify potential hazards including the bathroom door lock and bunk beds in the children's bedroom.

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