



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY304335
Inspection date	06 September 2006
Inspector	Christine Holmes

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 three children aged 17, 14 and 11 years. They live in the Wilnecote area of Tamworth, Staffordshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently caring for one child on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends activity groups with her minded children. The family has a dog and two chinchillas.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a warm, comfortable, family centred environment. The childminder has established personal hygiene routines with the children and explanations as to the importance of such routines are given to increase their understanding and knowledge. There are effective written procedures in place to maintain children's welfare such as a sick child policy.

Children have their dietary needs met as the childminder works with parents to meet their individual needs. Children have regular drinks of water or milk which ensures they are well hydrated. This promotes children's good health. Healthy snacks such as fruit are sometimes provided by the childminder. However, less healthy options of crisps and biscuits are mostly offered. This does not fully promote the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Children take part in activities which contribute to their good health such as walking to and from school and make regular visits to the local park. They are able to access the outdoor play area during fine weather to develop their physical skills by using the trampoline and various outdoor equipment. This helps to develop children's physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is protected because effective steps are now taken to ensure the front door is locked at all times. This ensures children are not able to leave the premises unsupervised and that unauthorised persons are not able to gain entry. Space has been organised to enable the children to move around freely and toys and equipment are readily available and suitable for their purpose, although the variety of toys and resources is limited.

Children are learning about how to keep themselves safe. They discuss and take part in regular emergency evacuation practices and they learn good road safety practices such as crossing the road with the road crossing warden. The risk of accidental injury is mainly minimised. However, the childminder has not yet taken steps to ensure hazardous items such as aerosols are stored out of the reach of children. This does not ensure children's safety is fully protected.

The childminder demonstrates sufficient awareness of child protection procedures. She has developed her understanding of procedures regarding allegations whilst children are in her care. This means children's welfare is protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children experience a positive relationship with the childminder and they are treated as part of the family. This increases their sense of trust and well-being. They receive a high level of attention as the childminder sits alongside them during play. She encourages their learning by joining in with their games, talking about things that are familiar to them and asking appropriate questions to make them think. This promotes language skills and helps them develop a high level of confidence and self-esteem. Children's social skills are also promoted as the childminder takes them to activities clubs after school. Discussions with children demonstrate that they enjoy spending time at the childminders house. They particularly enjoy being able to watch the television and being creative with the range of resources available to them. These types of activities help children enjoy their leisure time after school.

Children are encouraged to behave well. They enjoy the constant use of praise and encouragement given to them. As a result children are confident and keen to show the childminder their efforts.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are at home and at ease with the childminder. They are valued and respected as individuals and treated with equal concern. Although there are no children with learning difficulties or disabilities the childminder is able to provide care which includes them in the life of the setting through discussing their needs with parents. The childminder involves the children in some activities that promote a positive view of the wider world, such as, walks in the local community. However, the range of toys and equipment available to reflect positive images of today's society is limited. This does not provide children with a fully inclusive view of the wider world.

Children behave well. The use of praise and encouragement helps build children's self-esteem and promotes good behaviour. The childminder has effective and consistent ways for dealing with children's behaviour. This includes talking to children about their behaviour and distracting them to other activities.

Children benefit from a two way sharing of information between parents and the childminder enabling her to obtain relevant information about the children's likes and dislikes and individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. The childminders supportive manner ensures children feel at home and at ease. She has developed sufficient knowledge and understanding of the National Standards and regulations. This enables her to keep children safe and to protect their well-being. A range of policies and procedures are used to promote the welfare of the children, for example, equal opportunities and behaviour management policies. She has also

taken steps to keep Ofsted informed of changes such as the use of an assistant. Although the childminder has attended a first aid course for infants and young children she has not yet gained her certificate as she was unable to fully complete the course.

All required documentation is kept and shared with parents. This helps to keep parents well informed about the service and their child's activities. This benefits the children in their continuity of care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure the premises are secure, complete a first aid course, gain written permission when leaving children in the sole care of an assistant and to notify Ofsted of any significant event.

The childminder has improved the security of the premises by ensuring the front door is locked at all times. This ensures children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised and unauthorised persons are unable to gain entry. Consequently, children are now safe. Documentation has also been improved. The childminder now ensures written parental permission is sought when an assistant is left in sole charge of children. This improves parents understanding of the childminding practices and respects their wishes. She has also kept Ofsted informed of any significant events. This means she is now complying with the conditions of her registration. Although the childminder can now demonstrate she has improved her knowledge of first aid for young children she has not yet completed the required course and obtained the required certificate. Therefore this continues to be an area requiring improvement.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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?
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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):

- keep all hazardous items out of the reach of children
- complete a first aid course which includes training in first aid for young children
- develop the range of toys and equipment available that reflect positive images of today's society.

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