



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY252648
Inspection date	09 August 2006
Inspector	Margaret Webster
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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged seven and eight years in the City of Wolverhampton. 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 is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five part-time and two child over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group. The family have two guinea pigs.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She is a member of an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children receive good levels of hygiene due to routines that promote their health in a well maintained and clean environment. They have a good understanding of why routine hygiene practices such as hand washing promote a healthy lifestyle and minimise the risk of the spread of infection. Parents are informed that the childminder protects herself and all the children from the risk of infection by only caring for children after they are recovered from infections for at least 48 hours or on advice of a general practitioner. Accident records are maintained accurately. The childminder has a current first aid certificate and she has a clear procedure in place to ensure children receive appropriate care following accidents.

The children are well nourished because the childminder works closely with the parents, who provide most of the food. Children's individual dietary needs and requirements are addressed as information is recorded on their records. Drinks are available at all times during the day, they are easily accessible from the dining room table.

Children experience an extensive range of stimulating, developmentally appropriate opportunities to explore, test and reinforce their physical capabilities. For example, learn how to balance when playing twister. They are confident when using the extensive range of excellent outdoor equipment, promoting their movements, balance and clearly controlling their bodies. Younger children are regularly taken to the local toddler group. This provides opportunities to enhance their physical development by using a different range of toys and equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children's welfare and safety are a priority. Consequently, they receive excellent care in the welcoming and extremely secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment. Risk of accidents and serious injury are minimised because the childminder is extremely vigilant. Risk assessments of premises are done each day and more thoroughly every week. She has a monitor in the kitchen that scans the lounge, dining area and the garden so when she comes into the house for drinks and food she can still see the children playing. She has all her dangerous substances stored in a locked cupboard in the kitchen. Safety gates prevent children from accessing the kitchen and the front door. Appropriate fire equipment is available and the children are very aware of the emergency evacuation procedure as they are regularly practiced. As a result the children are armed with the knowledge and clearly understand what to do in an emergency situation. Effective arrangements ensure the outdoor play area is safe. Excellent security means the children cannot leave the premises unsupervised and no one is able to enter without the childminder's knowledge.

Children have access to an extensive range of good quality equipment and resources which comply with British Safety Standards. Toys and equipment are stored in containers on low-level shelves in marked containers. Therefore, they are safe for them to access independently. Children have plenty of space to play alone and together and they have access to child size furniture.

A comprehensive policy ensures all equipment is cleaned and checked to ensure it is well maintained and safe. The childminder carefully chooses, monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to ensure they are developmentally appropriate.

During outings priority is given to maintaining children's safety and welfare. Risks assessments are carried out before allowing the children to use the apparatus in the parks. This means that the children have the freedom to explore in a safe environment.

Children are never left alone as the childminder is meticulous and shows a very clear understanding of constant supervision of the children. Younger children are transported in a buggy or wear reins when away from home to ensure they are kept safe by being close to the childminder. Children's welfare is consistently protected because the childminder has an extremely good understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect. She understands her responsibility to protect children and has a good understanding of The Local Safeguarding Children Board reporting procedures. This information is shared with the parents. Therefore, they understand how the childminder protects their children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder effectively uses 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan and deliver an extensive range of activities and experiences for younger children. As a result they are highly motivated and actively engaged in activities which positively promote all areas of development. Their achievement and next steps in their individual development are clearly identified. This information is successfully used to plan and provide additional activities to extend and challenge the children's development. Older children access an excellent range of activities as the childminder is innovative in her planning for all ages. Consequently, the experiences are individual to each child. The parents are kept fully informed of their child's development and progress.

A substantial range of toys and resources are readily accessible to the children. The outside play area is extremely well equipped and organised. There are two gazebos erected in the garden one is for sitting and doing messy play and the other is for shade while playing in the sand and the water. There is a wide selection of good quality equipment for the children to develop their gross motor skills. The rooms inside are well organised to provide areas for different types of play, for example, messy play in the dining room, book corner and floor activities. As a result children assertively move around the premises actively engaging in planned activities provided for them.

Children clearly enjoy themselves and are making positive strides in all areas of development as the childminder creates a warm, caring atmosphere of trust, respect and friendship. Children thrive due to the extremely caring and stimulating environment where they are treated with respect and kindness.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. Children learn about their local community on their daily walks to school, visits to the local park and visits to places of interest such as sea world, theme parks, museums and art galleries.

Currently there are no children with special needs attending the setting but the childminder has some past experience and she would work with the parents and other professionals to meet each child's needs.

Children receive support and encouragement to effectively develop their understanding of what is right and wrong. They learn mutual respect as they play together, sharing and taking turns. Children build a trusting relationship with the childminder which fosters their sense of belonging. Children receive cuddles and affection which provide a firm foundation to build trusting relationships with the childminder and successfully contribute to their sense of belonging and security.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Parents are kept appropriately informed about their children's well-being and development, mainly through daily discussions. The positive partnerships developed ensures that the childminder and parents work together to meet the needs of the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to provide a good service. She has a knowledge of child development and has attended several courses on child care including the 'Birth to three matters' framework, food hygiene and child protection. She will shortly have completed her National Vocational Qualification level 3 in child care and she has a current first aid certificate. This knowledge and her experience keep the children safe and ensure that they develop and thrive.

The required documentation, policies and procedures which contribute to children's health, safety and well-being are in place and shared with parents. However she does not have the facility to record any complaints.

Continual sharing of information with the parents ensures the children's needs are always promoted. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to maintain written records of all medication that she administered and to keep a signed record of all accidents involving the minded children. The introduction of these records has contributed to the children's health and well-being. She

was asked to identify and minimize all potential risks on the property, this involved the outside play area. This has been made into a special area where the children have a wide choice of activities in a safe and secure environment. Personal records and attendance records are kept, up to date and in good order. She is now practising emergency evacuation procedures with the children and keeping records of the dates to ensure that all the children in her care are all involved, this contributes to the children's safety and ensures that they know what to do in the event of an emergency.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. 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):

- ensure that a written record is kept of any complaints.

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