



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY104086
Inspection date	10 August 2006
Inspector	Yvonne Layton
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 February 2002 and she lives with her family. 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding one children under five, varied placements, and two children over five before and after school. The childminder undertakes outings and visits to local children's groups. The family have two cats and a rabbit.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of consistent hygiene and personal care through daily routines. They understand why they must wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet by responding to the childminder's established practices and through discussion about hygiene. Children's welfare is protected as medication and accident records are in place. However, children's health is compromised as the emergency treatment consent has not been completed for all children attending the setting and the first aid box does not meet requirements.

The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and at present does not provide any meals. However, the provision of a healthy snack, freely available fresh fruit and outings to the shop to investigate food ensures children are learning about healthy eating.

Children have varied opportunities to participate in outdoor activities and active play, which encourages physical development. A range of outings to parks and local amenities ensure children have freedom to run and climb. They have access to outdoor equipment at the home that provides suitable challenge to enable them to develop their physical skills, such as wheeled play vehicles, balls and hoops.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The appropriate range of toys and equipment are clean and safe. Toys and play resources are made accessible to children and they enjoy being able to self-select, and make choices about their play.

Children are able to move around freely and independently in a home where risks are appropriately identified and minimised. Fire and safety equipment is in place, however, there is a risk to children's safety as hazardous items are accessible in the kitchen.

Children follow safety rules on outings and when walking as a consequence they are beginning to develop a greater awareness of personal safety. Parents are reassured by the accident and emergency statements that give information about what would happen in case of an emergency.

Children are safe guarded by the childminder who has an understanding of her role and responsibilities for child protection. This is supported by her child protection policy, which is shared with the parents. However, the children she cares for are not fully protected as the childminder knowledge of some procedures is limited.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, eager to participate and relish their time at the setting. Their potential is well supported and they are given stimulating challenges by the range of planned creative activities and outings and free choice activities. Themes are undertaken, including a visit to the fire station and a variety of celebrations. At Easter time the children made painted Easter eggs.

Children have opportunity to experiment and develop their own play, they are well supported by the childminder who offers suggestions and assistance to enable the children to achieve in their chosen activity. A child successfully completed her gluing and sticking picture, appropriately supported by the childminder who offered suggestions and demonstrated to the child how to use the glue.

Daily routine includes times to be active and quiet times, including, outings and creativity sessions, for example, baking and looking at books. Outings encourage children to develop social skills and to understand about the world around them, such as visits to local children's groups.

Children become confident and self-assured, working and playing effectively on their own, with others or with the childminder. Close and caring relationships with the childminder increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self. They develop good social and communication skills as she takes time to talk and listen to them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a sound awareness of children's individual needs. Their ideas and choices are valued. Equipment and resources meet the needs of individual children and reflect diversity. Some international festivals, and festivals from other faiths, are celebrated, beginning to raise children's awareness of the wider world.

The childminder cares for children with learning disabilities and is confident to judge how well individual children's needs can be met within existing routines. All children are included in activities and have free access to the assortment of toys.

Children profit from clear house rules established by the childminder. They are beginning to learn about what is acceptable behaviour and respecting each other; the methods for dealing with behaviour are appropriate and take into account children's age and stage of development. The childminder's use of positive praise and encouragement enhances children's self-esteem.

A positive partnership between the childminder and parents contributes to children's well-being. Parents receive verbal information that ensures they are informed of their child's day. Each parent has access to an information file with written policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides. Children are cared for in a well maintained environment that enables them to relax and enjoy themselves. Their needs and routines are discussed on a daily basis with parents, which contribute to continuity in the children's care. Children benefit from the childminder eagerness to develop her skills, including learning about 'Birth to three matters' to enhance her care of babies and toddlers. The capacity to improve is sound.

Children's well-being and security is supported by the childminder's documentation meeting regulatory requirements, however, some are not fully completed. Documents are stored securely and safely in order to ensure children's privacy and they are protected by the childminder's appropriate awareness of confidentiality.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a number of recommendation were made; relating to the provision of play resources and activities to meet the children's needs. Safety issues regarding the provision of a fire blanket, record keeping and obtaining the local authority child protection procedures.

Children's learning and development has been enhanced as the childminder provides a suitable range of resources, including resources that reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability. She has developed her understanding of the provision of play opportunities ensuring children are stimulated and challenged. Their safety is promoted as there is a fire blanket in the kitchen and the childminder has developed her systems of record keeping. The childminder has obtained the local authority child protection procedures to protect children in her care, however, she does not have the national guidance, therefore this recommendation has not been completed.

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 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 hazardous items in the kitchen are not accessible to children
- ensure the contents of the first aid box are as determined by the first aid training course
- ensure consent for emergency treatment is completed for each child
- develop knowledge of child protection procedures and obtain a copy of the current national guidance

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