



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223915
Inspection date	22 September 2006
Inspector	Juliette Jennings
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 has been registered since September 2000. She lives with her nine year old daughter in a terraced house located in an established residential area in Shrewsbury. Their home is within walking distance of shops, parks and schools. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family have two cats as pets.

The childminder runs a local carer and toddler playgroup with other childminders from the local area. In addition, she is a member of the National Childminding Association, and the Shropshire Childminding Network. She is registered to provide care for six children and is currently minding 15 on a part-time or full-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and hygiene is promoted well, through the provision of a hygienic environment with clear procedures in place which are effective in practice. Children are able to use a clean, tidy and very well-maintained space which is homely and child-orientated. They are encouraged to be aware of their own personal hygiene through routines for toileting and keeping hands and faces clean after eating or engaging in a creative activity. For example, the childminder enables the children to be able to wash their hands at the sink after painting, enthusiastically encouraging them to scrub off all of the paint using anti-bacterial soap. In addition, information about child related issues and illnesses is readily available in a file and the childminder works closely with parents to ensure that there is a consistent approach to children's health. There are appropriate procedures in place for ensuring that parents are informed about administration of medication and about any accidents.

Children have good access to outdoor activities, fresh air and light on a daily basis. They can independently access the garden as they wish during the better weather and enjoy using the outdoor play equipment, playhouse and the swing. In addition, they walk frequently and have access to local activity areas to ensure they have opportunities to run, balance and climb on more challenging equipment to help develop their physical skills. In particular, the 'Forest Schools' project has allowed them to develop a greater understanding of the natural world around them. Structured activities such as using printing, painting, play dough and colouring with pens encourages their manipulative skills.

Children enjoy eating a balanced, healthy diet from the choice provided by either their parents or by the childminder. Examples include fruit, sandwiches and yoghurts and children develop good table manners through consistent routines that are implemented on a daily basis. The childminder's good awareness of likes and dislikes and any special dietary requirements helps children to eat well and in line with parental wishes. Children are encouraged to eat fruit through being involved in making fruit smoothies, which the childminder has implemented following attendance at a training course.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a colourful, interesting and well-organised space which suits their needs well. The rooms that children use are homely, safe, bright and effectively organised in order to allow them to move around safely both indoors and outdoors. Children enjoy a good range of resources and equipment which are all stored efficiently, mostly in low-level storage or otherwise easily accessible by the childminder who frequently reminds the children what is available for them to play with. For example, she suggests the dressing-up clothes and they are all very enthusiastic and keen to access this resource.

Children benefit from simple and effective procedures which keep them safe whilst attending this child-orientated environment. For example, regular fire drills are carried out, the rooms

that children use are safe with no safety issues highlighted at this inspection and regular safety checks are carried out on the space, resources and equipment. In addition, the outdoor area is secure and there are clear procedures for keeping children safe whilst on outings, including what would happen if a child became lost. Children are supervised very well whilst being given the independence they need to develop and learn.

Children's welfare is promoted well through regular access to child protection training. This training has been accessed on a regular basis and is updated frequently so that the childminder is very clear about the current systems in place for reporting any concerns about children. Child protection and accident policies are clear, detailed and available within the organisational file, thus enabling parents to have a clear understanding about procedures within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children greatly enjoy their time at the setting, they are enthusiastic and motivated to learn, excitedly exploring the wide range of toys and resources which are readily available to them. The childminder's good knowledge of development and effective use of observation techniques, which are taken from the 'Birth to three matters' framework, allow her to monitor development and this helps her provide activities which assist children to develop and learn at their own pace. The childminder is very aware of what the children need to do next to extend their learning.

Children are very happy, contented, busy and occupied in this exciting, child-orientated and colourful space. The childminder shows lots of lovely, exuberant, enthusiastic involvement and is so keen and interested in what the children are doing that they absorb this and are excited about learning themselves. In addition, she is caring, loving and very good at encouraging kindness and respectfulness in a reassuring manner, for example, supporting the children to share the dishes of paint during the creative activity.

Children happily access a good range of toys, activities and resources within an environment that encourages them to make choices about what they want to do. They enjoy role play, dressing up, painting and looking at books or photograph albums. Children's overall development is promoted very well through appropriately structured activities, in addition to plentiful opportunities to engage in valuable child-initiated play with extremely positive encouragement and interaction from the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children develop their self-esteem very well through a wealth of positive praise from the childminder and encouragement of independence and choice. They are supported in a caring, sympathetic and nurturing manner and this allows them to thrive and make progress. They know the simple rules of the setting and these are consistently reinforced in a respectful way by the childminder, for example, when discussing how it is better to share toys with each other so that everyone has a turn. Kindness and sharing is encouraged and this all helps to ensure that they are confident, happy and secure in the care of the childminder. Children have access

to a range of resources, toys and activities which helps them to develop an understanding of diversity and the world around them. Examples include books, small-world people, videos, posters and games which are all freely available to them on a daily basis. Trips out in the local environment and wider community help to ensure that children develop a sound awareness of the world around them.

Children behave well, with any issues being quickly addressed in an age-appropriate way which children can easily understand. The clear policy outlines for parents the positive techniques used and simple rules are reinforced with the children which helps to ensure that they know and understand them, discussing that the paint is for everyone to share. The childminder is very aware of children's likes and dislikes and accommodates children's individual routines and specific needs well within the routine of the day. She is a network childminder which means that she has accessed specific training so that she can accommodate and care for children who have learning difficulties or learning disabilities.

The partnership with parents is very strong with an emphasis on a friendly, supportive ethos. Procedures are effective in ensuring that children are cared for in line with parent's wishes and in a calm and consistent manner. Clear and detailed policies, information for parents and verbal feedback, either on collection or later by telephone, ensure that parents know what their children have been doing whilst in the childminder's care and are aware of any issues. The childminder expressed a wish to continue to develop the strong links with parents by sharing information from training accessed in order to continue to provide a consistent approach for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's consistency of care is enabled and supported through the availability of paperwork which is extremely well-organised, stored in very good order and maintained in line with requirements. This allows children's individual details to be readily available at any time. Policies and procedures are extensive and regularly reviewed. These outline clearly the care provided for the children and describe how the childminder ensures that they are safe and secure whilst in her care. Parents have good access to these and they are asked to sign to say that they have read them so that they know about the care provided for their children. In addition, there is a vast amount of information available in relation to childcare issues, much of this accessed from training courses, so that up to date information is close at hand.

Children have the use of a very well-organised space with use of rooms which are child-orientated, comfortable and homely. They have good access to age-appropriate toys and resources in a colourful and stimulating space, with continued proactive support and care from the childminder so that they are secure and content to develop and learn. The childminder is always reviewing the environment, activities and care provided so that children's needs continue to be met effectively.

Access to training is excellent and ensures that the childminder keeps up to date with current childcare issues and good practice guidelines. Examples include looking at aspects of social play and creative play, the 'Forest Schools' project and the Certificate in Childminding Practice.

She is extremely motivated to develop her practice to improve the good care already provided for children. This, in turn, allows children to be cared for in an environment which is interesting, stimulating, exciting and child-orientated whilst still remaining welcoming, homely and comfortable. Children benefit greatly from the way that the childminder uses the information gained in training to extend and challenge their learning. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the provider was asked to provide a suitable range of toys for children aged under eight years of age. The childminder now has plentiful toys and resources which have developed as her childminding career has grown. Children have good access to a wide range of age-appropriate toys and resources.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the 1 April 2004 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 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):

- continue to use knowledge gained from training to reinforce the strong links already in place with parents.

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