

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	251925
Inspection date	14 August 2007
Inspector	Patricia Webb
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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1991. She lives with her five children aged from four years to 17 years in Warstones, Wolverhampton. The whole of the ground floor is used for minding with toilet facilities on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time. There are currently five children on roll who attend on a part-time basis.

The family has a dog, a tortoise and a budgerigar.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health and well-being is not fully promoted because the childminder has not renewed her first aid qualification which is a breach of the National Standards. Accident records are in place and are shared with parents to ensure they are informed of matters which affect their

children's health. This is further promoted as written parental consent is in place for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice and for occasions when any medication is requested to be administered. Children understand why it is important to follow effective personal hygiene routines to reduce the risk of the spread of infection as they are gently reminded about hand washing and using their individual towels.

Children develop an awareness of how to keep healthy through regular activity. They access various equipment in the garden and enjoy dancing to various types of music with the childminder joining in and enjoying their company as they all 'keep fit' together. Regular visits to local parks and nature reserves help to teach children about developing their muscles and growing strong.

Children benefit from a healthy diet and they are able to access drinks throughout the day. Parents provide most main meals with the childminder offering nutritious snacks such as fresh fruit. Foods are correctly stored by the childminder to prevent spoilage and care is taken to supervise children when they eat their meals to prevent the risk of cross-contamination. Dietary needs are identified and adhered to in line with parents' wishes and children's preferences.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Whilst the childminder has sufficient knowledge of some aspects of child protection, she has not updated her knowledge of the procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance. The childminder is unsure of the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse to have taken place whilst a child is in her care. This hinders how effectively children's welfare is fully safeguarded.

Visual risk assessments are carried out by the childminder. However, these are not robust enough to fully ensure children's safety. This results in some hazards not being addressed such as the discarded window unit in the garden, loose wiring on the stairs and an unsecured piece of gym equipment on the landing. Other appropriate safety measures have been put into place including smoke detectors, a fireguard and socket covers. Children are developing an awareness of safety for themselves as they know that games and puzzles are tidied away before they get the next ones out.

Children are at ease in the childminder's home. They are able to engage in active play and have space to 'chill out' and relax as they wish. They access a variety of toys and resources which are safe, clean and suitable for their age and stage of development.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children share a warm relationship with the childminder as they chatter and laugh together in a friendly and relaxed environment. The childminder is aware of how to weave learning opportunities into children's games and activities. They develop their confidence as the childminder knows them well and praises their achievements, for example, when playing 'Kim's game' remembering which items have been removed from the tray. Imaginative play is developed as children prepare to 'fly off to the moon' in their cardboard spaceship.

The childminder responds to their requests for certain toys and games respecting and valuing their play and expanding their ideas as they move from settling the dolls off to sleep to settling

each other 'off to sleep'. They play well together as the childminder gives them space and opportunity to play by themselves whilst still supervising well and supporting their ideas. Much enjoyment is had as one child becomes absorbed in his game of 'Connect Four', giggling with glee as he 'beats' the childminder.

Children call the childminder's attention to one of their favourite television characters, Mr Tumble, as he uses sign language like the childminder does. Both the children and the minder then demonstrate some signing to simple rhymes and phrases. Such practice demonstrates the childminder's understanding of how children can pick up such skills in an easy and friendly way.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Whilst the childminder builds positive relationships with parents, she is unaware of the requirements concerning complaints procedures and the keeping of a complaints record which can be shared with parents on request. This is a breach of regulation and hinders how parents are kept informed of matters which may affect the care of their children. Furthermore the information supplied for parents to contact the regulator should they have a concern is incorrect.

However, children do settle well on arrival at the childminder's house and are at ease with her and the family. They are confident in asking for specific toys and games and enjoy the friendly atmosphere that is offered in the busy family home. They are developing an understanding of the diversity of society as they visit local venues and shops and engage in discussions promoted by looking at books and relevant television programmes such as 'Mr Tumble' and 'Me Too'.

Children's self-esteem is fostered as the childminder takes time to encourage positive relationships that develop as they play. They show an awareness of sharing and taking turns for example, as they play board games and create their own scenes in felt shapes. Their behaviour is good as expectations by the childminder are realistic given their ages and levels of maturity and understanding. Children receive well-earned praise for their efforts and achievements which are shared with parents and carers, further developing children's confidence and self-worth.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The provision does not meet the needs of the children for whom it provides. The childminder has not updated her knowledge of the requirements as detailed in the National Standards and this has resulted in some aspects of regulatory procedures not being effectively implemented such as child protection, the complaints procedure and maintaining a first aid qualification. The registration certificate is not clearly displayed which is a breach of the conditions of registration and means that parents are not fully informed of matters affecting the care of their children specifically the number of children the childminder is registered to care for. Ofsted has not been informed of significant events which affect the childminding arrangements. This includes the childminder not having completed the process for vetting persons in the household over 16 years of age and impacts on the safeguarding of children's welfare.

Children are settled and busy in the childminder's care. They chat with her and confidently request favourite toys and activities confident in her response. All the required documentation is in place including details of all minded children and the daily record of children's attendance. This contributes to the well-being of the children in her care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection the childminder was required to keep accurate records of all medicines administered to children with parental consent, any accidents and the daily attendance of children; increase regularity of checks on sleeping children; make the fire blanket easily accessible and develop awareness of the child protection procedures and the timescales for retaining key records.

The childminder has taken steps to address most of the issues with regard to keeping accurate records of medication, accidents and the attendance of children. When young children are having a sleep or rest the childminder makes regular visual checks as they are usually sited in the lounge where they can settle quietly. This room is within easy reach and hearing of the childminder to assure their well-being. The fire blanket is within reach in the kitchen although since having some work done on the kitchen, it has not yet been re-mounted on the wall to facilitate easy access should an emergency arise.

Issues regarding the childminder's knowledge and understanding of some aspects of the child protection procedures have not been fully addressed and consequently these have been raised again at this inspection.

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 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that all persons in the household over the age of 16 years undergo checks including a criminal records check
- display the registration certificate
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- take action to minimise risks to children with regard to the loose wires in the stairs and the storage of gym equipment

- update knowledge regarding changes to current legislation with particular regard to maintaining a record of any complaints
- ensure that the child protection procedures comply with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), and include procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse alleged to have taken place while the child is in the care of the childminder
- develop procedures for informing Ofsted of significant events that affect the childminding arrangements

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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