



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	254965
Inspection date	29 August 2006
Inspector	Patricia Dawes
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 1993. She lives with her parents in West Bromwich, West Midlands. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house and upstairs bedroom are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day, and two children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children gain an excellent understanding of good hygiene practices and personal care through consistent, well-informed daily routines. Children understand from a very early age, why they must wash their hands after using the toilet, messy play activities and before eating meals. Nappy changing arrangements reflect good hygiene procedures and the childminder demonstrates a very mindful attitude to protecting children from infection.

Children benefit from very healthy and nutritional snacks which are imaginatively prepared and presented to encourage children to eat a variety of different foods. They have grown their own vegetables, carrots and runner beans, prepared and eaten them for dinner. They are able to help themselves to drinks throughout the day and enjoy a range of fresh fruit, and healthy meals which help to promote a good awareness of healthy eating. Children delight in mealtimes because time is given for them to savour their food and further enhance their developing skills and social interaction.

Focused activities and exceptional communication between the childminder and children promotes their understanding of staying healthy. They are developing an awareness of how their bodies work, and know when they need a drink or a rest. Children benefit from the daily outdoor exercise to promote their physical development, such as walking to and from school, playing outdoors and visits to Sandwell Park and Farm to see the animals, try their hand at 'milking' cows and riding on the fun bus.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a clean, very secure environment. The childminder has an exceptionally good understanding of health and safety; she is extremely vigilant and supervises children very well. Children benefit from an extensive range of safety measures which are in place to minimise hazards and enable them to explore their surroundings safely. Attention to safety is paramount as the childminder ensures children are supervised at all times. She gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe, for example, children regularly practice emergency evacuation procedures and are aware of what to do if they are lost on outings.

Space is well used and resources organised effectively to meet children's individual needs. Children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. They self-select activities from a extensive range of high-quality toys and resources, which offer stimulating challenge and are appropriate to their stage of development. They are in excellent condition and maintained, checked and cleaned daily. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises the use of toys to make sure they are safe and used appropriately by the children.

Children are protected from possible harm or neglect because the childminder is very knowledgeable about child protection. She has attended child protection training and is fully aware of her role and responsibility in protecting children in her care, and knows whom to

contact if she has any concerns. Her procedures are inline with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and therefore information shared with parents is up-to-date.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle into the environment exceptionally well and are happy, confident and eager to play and learn. The childminder has a very good understanding of how children learn. They are able to make choices about their play and there is a very good balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities. The childminder provides an extensive range of activities and resources that meet the needs of the children in all areas of development. Activities are adapted to ensure that all children can participate; as a result children are very confident to try new experiences.

All areas of children's development are significantly enhanced by the quality of the childminder's interactions. The childminder has attended training for the 'Birth to three matters' and is using the framework well to enhance her practice for younger children. Babies and young children are beginning to learn and develop their early communication skills because they receive lots of cuddles, and stimulating interaction from the childminder. She positively responds to their gestures, sounds and questions giving them reassurance and increasing their sense of well-being.

Children's self-esteem and confidence are effectively promoted because the childminder encourages children to take part in activities in a safe environment. The childminder interacts well with the children, develops a warm rapport and has a calm, gentle approach. Children are comforted and interest is shown in what they are doing. Children are learning to distinguish between right and wrong as the childminder encourages them to share and take turns. This helps children make positive relationships. All children's activities and achievements are shared with parents.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are made thoroughly welcome and the childminder considers each child's individual needs to ensure their time is spent purposefully. Each child is valued and included in every aspect of the daily routine and activities are meaningful, stimulating and fun. Children have choices in their play which ensures that they are interested in what they do, and the childminder adapts activities to ensure all children are included.

Children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others are increased because they are able to access a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world. They are given valuable opportunities to increase their knowledge of the wider world through planned activities such visits to the park, school and places of interest. The children and the childminder play together using, for example, books and small world figures that show positive images of race and gender; however images of disability are limited.

Children's behaviour is well managed due to the realistic expectations and positive role model set by the childminder. She uses effective and consistent methods for dealing with children's behaviour which include setting clear boundaries and using effective strategies such as time

out, discussion and distraction. Children understand the difference between right and wrong and this is continually reinforced through daily routines and practices such as caring for each other, and tidying away toys after use.

Systems are in place to develop positive relationship with parents to encourage involvement and information sharing, such as daily verbal feed-back regarding children's activities, and individual care; however records of accidents and incidents are not appropriately maintained to ensure confidentiality. This compromises how children's needs are effectively met, and parent's wishes are respected.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is proficient in her understanding of the National Standards and takes positive steps to ensure that persons who have contact with the children are suitable, have satisfactorily completed the relevant vetting procedure and the regulator is kept informed of any changes in the household. She is enthusiastic about developing her childcare skills and knowledge to enable her to further improve the quality of care that she currently offers. This means children are well-protected in her home.

Effective organisation of space and time ensures children's play opportunities are maximised and their individual needs are consistently met. Children move around the premises and are able to initiate and develop their own play and learning. Excellent opportunities are given by the childminder to enable children to complete activities, relax, have fun and talk about their day. All children are happy and confident in the childminder's care, they feel at ease within the well-organised environment.

All documentation which contributes to children's health and safety is maintained appropriately and is up to date, and reviewed regularly. Children's records and parental contracts are stored confidentially and updated on a regular basis. This helps to form a positive relationship with parents to promote children's care learning and play.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004.

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):

- improve the systems for obtaining parental consent to administer medication and information detailed in the children's accident log
- increase the range of resources and activities to promote positive images of disability
- review the system for recording accidents and incidents to ensure confidentiality is maintained at all times.

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