



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	255640
Inspection date	08 September 2006
Inspector	Rebecca Hadley
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 has been registered since 1996. She lives with her husband and one adult child in a house in Brierley Hill. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years. There are currently four children on roll, all of whom attend on a part time basis.

The family have a dog and two aviaries in the garden containing birds, pigeons and ducks.

The childminder attends a local toddler group and takes children to and collects children from Colley Lane School.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of outdoor activities including daily walks and visits to the park where they experience physical activities such as swings, climbing frames and slides. This contributes to their health and helps them to develop control of their bodies. The needs of the younger children are adequately met because the childminder provides a range of activities and resources to support their physical and emotional development.

The children's individual care needs are appropriately met. They are cared for if they have an accident or become ill and there are effective procedures in place to protect them from illness and infection. The children are beginning to learn about their personal hygiene and how to keep healthy by washing their hands, cleaning their teeth and brushing their hair.

Children benefit from regular drinks such as squash, orange juice and vimto. However, fresh drinking water is not available at all times. The children do not learn about healthy eating as snacks consist of biscuits, crisps and sweets. Information is regularly shared and discussed with parents to ensure that each child's individual dietary needs and personal preferences are respected.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming, clean and safe environment where risks have been identified and minimised. Their awareness of safety issues is developed through every day activities such as crossing the road safely during outings. They are aware of the need for simple rules to keep them safe, such as not running in the house.

There is a range of equipment in place which children are able to use safely and select for themselves. All fire equipment such as smoke alarms are in place and children are transported safely because there are appropriate restraints and car seats. However, children's safety is compromised as they do not practise emergency evacuation procedures and the car insurance does not state that it can be used for business purposes. The premises are secure and there are effective procedures in place for the safe arrival and collection of children.

Children's welfare is promoted and safeguarded due to the childminders knowledge and understanding of signs and symptoms of abuse and her awareness of local safeguarding children board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are becoming confident and independent, and are developing self-esteem because the childminder provides them with encouragement and support to try new activities. For example, encouraging a younger child to throw and catch a ball, and offering praise such as

"well done" and "good try". Children are happy and contented, and interact positively both with the childminder and their peers. They actively seek cuddles from the childminder by holding out their arms for a hug. They are developing independence by choosing activities they wish to participate in and the childminder takes time to find out each child's interests by talking to parents and through discussion with the children.

Children benefit from a range of age appropriate activities to help them learn which includes visits to the park. They enjoy a variety of games including construction, musical instruments and role play. The childminders sound knowledge of children's development ensures that children's individual needs and routines are well met and their enjoyment and learning is fostered and encouraged.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Regular discussions with parents ensure that their individual needs are recognised and met appropriately. Children's knowledge and understanding of the wider world is hindered as the childminder does not talk to them about other cultures and festivals, and their access to resources which reflect positive images of diversity is very limited.

The children respond to clear behaviour management policies and strategies such as reinforcing positive behaviour and clear and consistent boundaries. Strategies are shared with and understood by parents, which ensures consistency between home and minding environments. Children are aware of simple house rules such as sharing toys and helping others.

Children's individual needs are adequately met. Effective partnerships with parents ensures that children are well settled with a familiar and trusted adult, separate happily from the parent, and are gaining self-assurance and confidence with others. Children are cared for in accordance with their parents wishes and information is shared with parents on a regular basis. However, children are not fully protected as parents are not informed about how they may complain about any aspect of the service and the new complaints procedure has not been implemented.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is sufficiently experienced. However, she does not regularly attend local short courses to ensure she is up-to-date with new ideas and information.

Most documentation which contributes to the children's health, safety and welfare is in place and regularly reviewed. However, the attendance record is not accurately maintained, and does not record children's actual times of arrival and departure. Therefore children's welfare is not fully protected. Documentation is safely stored to maintain confidentiality whilst still being easily accessible in an emergency. Information is shared with parents daily through verbal feedback to ensure continuity in the children's care. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop resources reflecting positive images of disability and to maintain an accurate record of children's attendance. These have not been implemented, and both remain a recommendation at this inspection. She was also asked to keep a record of significant incidents and share this with parents. There is now an incident book in place and the childminder is aware of the need to complete it when necessary.

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 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 that children are provided with nutritious and healthy snacks and that they are able to access fresh drinking water at all times
- ensure that emergency evacuation procedures are regularly practised with the children
- ensure that the car insurance is covered for business use
- provide children with a range of activities and resources which portray positive images of culture and disability
- ensure that the attendance register is accurately maintained and shows exact times of children's arrival and departure
- implement the new complaints procedure, and ensure that parents are informed of how they may make a complaint about the service.

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