



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	209566
Inspection date	17 July 2006
Inspector	Julie Mary Preston
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 1988. She lives with her husband and two adult children in Rugeley, Staffordshire. The whole of the property, with the exception of the garage is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden with a separate area for children identified for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding five children on a full and part-time basis, including before and after school care.

She walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group, visits the local park, the local forest, the library, the local shops and the local indoor play area. The family have two dogs and a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home, where effective procedures implemented by the childminder help children learn the importance of staying healthy. Children extend their understanding of good hygiene practices through daily routine activities completed with the childminder. For example, washing their hands before and after meals, after fussing the pets and after using the toilet. Individual bed linen and regular toy cleaning help to minimise the risk of cross-infection to children. The childminder has procedures identified for dealing with sickness, existing injuries, accidents and administration of medication. However, medication records lack detail. This means parents are not provided with accurate details of medication administered.

Children understand the benefits of a healthy diet and healthy living through discussion and activities undertaken with the childminder. Parents provide meals for the children attending and the childminder ensures regular access to drinks and snacks is provided as children require them throughout the day. The childminder works well in partnership with parents to meet children's individual dietary needs. She appropriately stores and serves meals for children who attend. This ensures individual dietary needs are met. The childminder is aware of good hygiene practices within food preparation and storage as she has attended a food hygiene course and reflects the knowledge gained within her practice.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities that contribute to their good health. Regular physical activities help children develop physical skills and gain control of their bodies, for example, use of the outside area, visits to the park to feed the ducks, nature walks, walking the dogs, visits to the indoor play area, dancing and movement sessions. Children are given opportunities to rest or sleep in line with parental wishes and individual sleep patterns.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder cares for children in a mostly safe and secure environment where she mainly identifies and minimises possible risks. However, children are exposed to a minor risk in the bathroom/toilet and security of the premises is compromised. The childminder has implemented safety procedures that aim to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted, for example, by providing fire safety equipment, undertaking a risk assessment and by identifying nominated persons for collection of children. The childminder extends children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe, for example, she discusses stranger danger and road safety with the children when they walk to and from school. She aims to ensure children are safe both inside and outside the home. Procedures for outings help children extend their experiences through trips and outings undertaken. The home is well maintained and offers a welcoming environment for children to play comfortably with the wide selection of toys and equipment available.

The child-friendly environment allows children the opportunity to select activities from the range of toys, which are suitable for the age range of children attending. Toys are organised in storage boxes within the garage and under the stairs, with the childminder providing a selection at child height in the main play room daily.

The childminder has attended training on child protection and has a good understanding of child protection procedures that ensure children are protected from harm or neglect. She is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and is confident to report concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, settled and show enjoyment of their time in the childminder's care. For example, children enjoy nature walks, jigsaws, colouring and educational activities. They are confident and make themselves at home. The children interact well with the childminder and each other exhibiting a clear bond that leads to positive relationships and a sense of belonging. Children are confident to express their needs and wants with the childminder. She takes time to listen and make conversation with each child expanding on their individual interests well through discussion and questioning. For example, the childminder extends children's understanding through everyday activities such as drawing to include opportunities to write and develop an understanding of number.

Children experience a wide range of age-appropriate activities that promote development, encourage confidence, develop independence and promote self-esteem. For example, art and craft, jigsaws and routine activities undertaken with the childminder. All children spend their time purposefully. However, the childminder is still developing an understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. This means it is not fully implemented to extend children's development. Many of the activities provided are child-led with the childminder supporting and extending children's learning successfully. The childminder has a detailed understanding of each child who attends and their individual capabilities and requirements. This enables her to adapt and extend activities to ensure each child gains the most out of each activity they participate in.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of equal opportunities and special needs issues. All children are treated as individuals and their needs met. Resources and activities provide positive images of diversity and develop children's understanding of themselves and the wider world, for example, the childminder has a range of resources that support this and she undertakes activities relating to specific festivals. This extends children's awareness of the wider world, promoting positive attitudes and increasing awareness of diversity and understanding of others.

Children are well behaved and the childminder encourages children to show care and concern for each other as she has effective procedures in place to manage children's behaviour. For example, she encourages positive behaviour and applies a consistent approach to managing a

range of children's behaviour by adhering to her written behaviour management policy that she shares with parents. Positive use of praise and encouragement for achievements help to build children's confidence and self-esteem. Children make themselves at home happily settling themselves down and selecting activities and resources from the wide range provided.

The childminder has established close relationships with parents and works well in partnership with them. Discussions are held with parents and children at the initial visits, with settling-in arrangements identified to allow children time to become accustomed to their new environment. In addition, ongoing daily discussions with parents are undertaken to ensure individual children's needs are identified and met. The childminder ensures parents are fully aware of her procedures and how children will be cared for by providing a range of written policies and procedures that she shares with parents during initial visits.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the relevant training requirements and is keen to attend additional training. Children are very comfortable and make themselves at home within the setting. The environment provided both inside and outside the home enables children to be confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Verbal and written policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Information is shared daily with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities and well-being. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. All required documentation is in place and is accurately completed and maintained. However, some lack sufficient detail. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that the premises are maintained at an adequate temperature and to obtain written permission from parents to administer medication to children. The childminder now ensures an adequate temperature is maintained by using windows for ventilation and uses thermostats to ensure an adequate temperature is maintained during colder weather. She has also put in place records for parents to complete to provide permission for medication to be administered to children who attend.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 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):

- update medication records to include details of the time medication is actually administered to children
- ensure a safe and secure environment by making safe the bathroom and toilet locks, removing the keys from the front door and ensuring the side gate is locked at all times
- develop outcomes for children from birth to three years by implementation and use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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