



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	210366
Inspection date	07 August 2006
Inspector	Olwen Pulker

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 1999. She lives with her husband and two children aged 12 and eight years in a residential area near Wolverhampton. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an 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 six children aged between two and 12 years. The childminder walks to the local school and nursery to take and collect children. She attends the local carer/toddler and childminding groups.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and of the local childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, comfortable home where they are protected from infection through the implementation of sound policies and procedures, for example excluding children who are ill or infectious and outdoor shoes being removed before children access the carpeted rooms. Children learn about the importance of personal hygiene as they wash their hands after toileting and have access to a supply of baby wipes during their daily routines. However, they are not consistently reminded to wash their hands before mealtimes and consequently their health is not always fully protected. The childminder updates her First Aid qualification every three years and this helps to ensure that she is able to deal with accidents and emergencies effectively.

The childminder advises and liaises with parents about meals and snacks provided in order to ensure that children are well nourished. Good awareness of likes and dislikes and any special dietary requirements helps children eat well and in line with parental wishes.

Children are encouraged to develop a healthy lifestyle as they play ball games or bounce on the small trampoline in the garden. Young children visit the local play park regularly where they have access to fixed structures suitable for their age group. The childminder drives the older children to other play parks where they enjoy a range of physical activities such as using the large equipment for climbing, sliding and swinging. These opportunities are effective in helping children develop body control and physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to play, eat and sleep comfortably in an appropriately organised and welcoming environment. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. A selection of well-maintained resources is made available daily; several play options are placed on the conservatory floor so that the youngest children are able to access them safely and independently.

Children's safety is appropriately promoted through the childminder's ability to implement necessary precautions both inside and outside the home. Most risks have been identified and minimised to allow children the freedom to move around the ground floor rooms and garden in safety. Children know what to do in the event of a fire as they practise the emergency evacuation procedure and all the required fire safety equipment is in place.

Children's welfare is well-protected through the childminder's knowledge of child protection issues and her commitment to safeguarding the welfare of the children in her care. She has attended training and shows a good understanding of the procedures to follow with any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have access to a suitable variety of toys, activities and equipment to help promote their learning. They enjoy role play such as hospitals and older children readily include younger ones in their play. All have an opportunity to take part in creative activities such as icing and decorating biscuits or painting pebbles. The childminder interacts positively with the children in their daily routines and play giving consistent support; she aids early speech development through constant dialogue with the children and they learn numbers as they play bingo. Older children are gentle and interact appropriately with toddlers; they include them in their activities and support them well. Children are developing independence and self-esteem by selecting their activities and taking responsibility for tidying away toys. Young children have ample opportunities to extend their social skills as they visit carer/toddler and childminding groups where they meet and play with other children and enjoy a wide range of play activities. Outings to the cinema, bowling alley and theme park provide children with new experiences. The childminder uses the 'Birth to three matters' framework informally to promote children's development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's home. They are comfortable and confident in the welcoming environment and soon build good relationships with the childminder and her family which fosters their enjoyment and sense of belonging. The childminder makes good use of a toy library to access multi-cultural play equipment which children enjoy, find stimulating and allow them to develop an understanding of diversity. Trips to a local nature reserve introduce children to the natural world as they take part in a bug hunt and they learn about their local community as they walk to and from school and nursery.

Children behave well. They are able to share toys and play well together. They learn good manners and respect for others as the childminder provides a good role model. Children understand right and wrong through consistent boundaries, praise and the age appropriate methods the childminder uses to manage behaviour.

The partnership with parents is good, with a strong emphasis on support and consistency. Policies and procedures are in place and are effective in ensuring that children are cared for in line with parent's wishes. Verbal feedback ensures that parents know what their children have been doing whilst in the childminder's care and are aware of any issues. In the past children with specific needs have been supported well as the childminder worked closely with parents to promote their safety and well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Paperwork is kept in good order and maintained in line with requirements. The childminder has developed a comprehensive folder of well-written simple policies and procedures which

contribute to the children's welfare, care and development and help parents understand her practice. Children benefit from the childminder's ongoing commitment to develop and enhance her practice through attending further training.

The areas used for childminding are effectively organised so that children have the use of rooms which are child-orientated and comfortable. They have good access to quieter activities, free play activities and outdoor play.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve fire safety precautions by maintaining smoke alarms on both floors in working order. Children's safety has been promoted as smoke alarms are now fitted to the lounge and landing ceilings and therefore smoke will be detected at the earliest stages of a fire.

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):

- encourage children to learn about personal hygiene with particular attention to washing their hands before mealtimes.

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