



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	504839
Inspection date	26 February 2007
Inspector	Lynn Morris
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 was registered in 1990. She lives with her husband and two children aged thirteen years and eight years and two adult children in Coventry, West Midlands. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is 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 caring for four children under five during the day and three school aged children. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends several toddler and childminding groups. The family has two small caged animals.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children take part in activities, which contribute to their health. They use a play tunnel, cars, trikes and scooters in the garden and they visit the local park where they have climbing equipment, swings and space to run around on safety surfaces. They attend a local Sure Start group with an outdoor play area and soft play sessions at the Purple Planet.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn about the importance of hygiene and personal care. They learn to wash their hands after using the toilet and before snacks and meals. Their health is safeguarded because the childminder has a current first aid certificate, a fully stocked first aid box and systems to record accidents and medication given to children. However, the method of recording accidents does not fully maintain confidentiality.

Children bring their own food to the childminder's home, which is appropriately stored to reduce risk of contamination until children require it. They have access to fruit snacks and rice crackers and a range of drinks at all times. Children's individual dietary needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a home where most risks have been identified and addressed. They move around the home independently, using the lounge and secure garden for play activities and play confidently with toys of satisfactory quality. However, restraints fixed on high chairs are not always used.

Children learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, they use reins and wrist bands when out walking, hold hands or the pushchair and learn about road safety. They practise emergency evacuation procedures and know what to do when the childminder signals a fire practise.

Children's safety is adequately met through the childminder's procedures and documentation. For example, she has a written escape plan and written consent to take children out in other peoples cars as she does not drive. Children are adequately protected from risk of harm or abuse by the childminder's secure knowledge of local procedures to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well in the childminders home. They make good relationships with the childminder and socialise with other children during visits to local childminder and Sure Start groups where they have a variety of activities, stories, singing and outdoor play. They benefit from learning and play opportunities in the home, during visits to the library and in the childminder's garden.

Children become independent as they choose from a range of toys, which are easily accessed in the lounge and are changed frequently to add variety. They take home pieces of art and

creative pictures made at the groups or with the childminder. They benefit from routines, for example, going to the same places each week with the childminder, which helps them feel secure.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for as individuals and they learn about other cultures and disabilities. They choose from a satisfactory range of toys, go out on visits, and choose appropriate books from the library, which help children develop a positive view of differences. They celebrate festivals, for example, by making masks for Chinese New Year and diva lamps for Diwali. They choose from toys which reflect diversity, family figures which reflect culture and disability, jigsaws reflecting disabilities and books which reflect culture and disability and as a result they learn to appreciate and value each others' similarities and differences. Although there are no children currently attending the setting, the childminder has past experience of meeting the needs of children with disabilities.

Children are respected and valued and receive individual care according to their needs. They have equal access to a wide range of resources. They receive praise and they respond to requests from the childminder and behave well. Children have clear guidelines and boundaries and the childminder discusses house rules with them and encourages sharing.

Children's information is exchanged with parents verbally by means of discussion at the end of the day. Children benefit from written information provided for parents, which includes policies and procedure documents, which parents read and sign and there is an induction document completed and signed which identifies discussions with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's home. They play in rooms downstairs and make use of the space and toys available in the garden. They make choices of play and use accessible toys and resources developing confidence and self-esteem. Information regularly exchanged with parents helps to make sure that care meets their wishes and they know about their children's progress.

Children benefit from the childminder's satisfactory organisational skills with regards to routines, which include a wide variety of activities to contribute to their learning and social skills. Children's records kept contribute to satisfactory care and the written policies and procedures ensure provision for children's individual needs. Children's personal information is kept secure. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to extend the range of toys and resources which reflect positive images of diversity. Children benefit from a range of toys, activities and books, which help them to appreciate and value each others' similarities and differences.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order 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 children's accident and medicine records are confidential
- ensure appropriate restraints are used on high chairs 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