



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223801
Inspection date	25 August 2006
Inspector	Dianne Andrews
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in January 1992. She lives in a detached house on a modern estate in a village in Shropshire with her husband and two adult children. The house is near to local schools, shops and parks. All of the downstairs rooms and one bedroom upstairs are used for childminding purposes. There is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for up to six children under eight years and is presently caring for five children under eight at various times of the week.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a clean and suitably maintained home, where they learn the importance of personal hygiene through appropriately established routines. They wash their hands using anti-bacterial soap preparations at mealtimes and after toileting, but are exposed to the potential risks of cross infection through the use of a communal towel. The childminder has attended first aid training to ensure she is aware of the correct procedures to follow to promote children's health in the event of an accident, but detailed information about children's individual medical or health issues is not obtained from parents to ensure that their needs are met.

The childminder provides a healthy lunch, if requested to do so by the parents. However, she does not have information about children's special dietary needs, preferences, allergies or food intolerances to ensure their dietary needs are met effectively and in line with parent's wishes. She provides snacks, as required and children are provided with regular drinks to ensure they are not thirsty.

Children take part in a range of physical activities, which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They enjoy playing in the garden on various equipment such as wheeled toys to help them develop control of their bodies. They regularly go for walks to the local shops or to the park where older children use the large climbing equipment to play 'Pirates of the Caribbean'.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children use the kitchen dining area, which is organised suitably for their play. They relax on the settee and use small tables for creative activities. Younger children can crawl safely around the area and begin to pull themselves up to a standing position on the furniture. Indoor play space is limited, so they regularly make use of the more spacious garden for active play. The range of toys for indoor play is most appropriate for the younger aged children attending. There are more limited options for the children aged over five, although they bring along a selection of their own toys, in line with their current interests, to play with.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure indoor and outdoor environment. Their risk of accidental injury is lessened because the childminder has taken steps to minimise hazards. For example, the premises are secure, cleaning materials are stored out of reach and the stairs are inaccessible to young children.

The childminder does not have a secure understanding of child protection issues, which may compromise children's welfare. Neither the Local Safeguarding Children's Board or National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children guidelines are available with details of who to contact should she have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and comfortable as the childminder knows them and their families well and joins in their conversations about their homes and the local community. Children have some opportunities to develop their independence as they choose between an assortment of toys and books, which are easily accessible. However, the range of resources, on the whole, are more suited to the youngest children attending and do not provide challenge for the older children. Activities are tailored to suit the ages of the children present; older children are provided with materials to allow them to cut out of magazines and stick their pictures on to paper to create a collage, while the toddler is happily occupied on a one-to-one basis with the childminder, rolling a ball across the kitchen floor and developing early language skills through appropriate conversation. They enjoy both active play, where they develop their physical skills using outdoor equipment, and times for relaxation where they watch their favourite television programmes and films such as 'Stuart Little.'

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children are treated and respected as individuals. The childminder understands that all children are different and talks to parents about how best to care for them. However, written details are not obtained to confirm essential information, such as children's doctors, emergency contact details and additional information to ensure that they continue to be cared for according to parent's wishes. This compromises children's well-being. Children with disabilities or learning difficulties are cared for effectively. The childminder provides relevant activities, following the advice of outside agencies and parents to promote their welfare and development.

Children have opportunities to learn about their local community as they visit amenities, such as the shops and the park, in the area. However opportunities to learn about how other people live are missed and the range of activities and resources available to promote children's understanding of society are limited. Children behave well and respond positively to clear behaviour strategies, which are shared and understood by parents.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder does not obtain a full written record of the child's and the parent's details before she begins minding. Consequently the safety and well-being of children is compromised. In other respects children are settled at the childminder's house because she is suitably organised and they are familiar with the daily routine. She keeps accurate records of their times of attendance and has recently developed some written policies to underpin her care practices, which are available for parents to see.

Overall, children's needs are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop her range of resources to positively reflect diversity. Children still have limited access to resources or activities to promote their understanding about society and the way that people live.

The childminder was asked to obtain permission from parents to enable her to act in a medical emergency and to transport children in the car. Parents have provided appropriate consents to ensure children's well-being.

The childminder was required to update her knowledge of child protection procedures. Children's welfare is compromised as she does not have appropriate knowledge to enable her to act appropriately if she has a concern.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- develop knowledge of child protection procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's recommendations
- obtain and record essential information from parents to enable children to be cared for effectively.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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