



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY297576
Inspection date 22 June 2005
Inspector Margaret Webster

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 2004. She lives with her husband and one child aged 21 months. They live in a three bedroomed house in a village in South Staffordshire. The whole of the house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed outside play area. The childminder is willing to walk to the local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler groups, and she takes the children to the local library and the local park.

The childminder is registered to care for five children under the age of eight years at any one time. There is one part time child currently on roll.

The childminder does not have any pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their good health, they develop their physical skills as they use a range of indoor and outdoor toys and equipment. The childminder has an understanding about appropriate types of activities and levels of support that will give the children confidence to try new skills, set their own limits and know when to ask for help.

Children are encouraged to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating. All children have individual towels and wipes, this protects them from cross infection. The childminder has all medication records up to date and signed by the parents. This helps to keep the children well and the parents informed, however she needs to ensure that the first aid box is restocked each time it is used.

Younger children are regularly offered drinks to ensure they are not thirsty. The childminder takes account of the wishes of the parents. She keeps records of any special requirements, this ensures that the children receive a balanced diet.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, well maintained environment. Well maintained toys and equipment mean the children can move around safely and freely to independently access available resources that are stored in boxes on the floor. Children can independently select activities from a range of toys and equipment that meet standards.

Children benefit from a range of safety measures in the home, for example smoke detectors on both floors, protection of the fireplace, safety gates in the appropriate places, a safe and secure outside play area and car seats when children are taken on outings, however the fire blanket is not easily accessible in the kitchen.

Children are protected from possible abuse or neglect. The childminder has an understand of child protection issues and has attended child protection courses. She aware of the Area Child Protection Committee procedures (ACPC).

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children relate well to each other, they settle well at the childminder's house. They are confident and make themselves at home. Children become independent as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities which appeal to all. The

childminder uses the Birth to Three Matters framework to adapt activities such as story telling and mark making to promote younger children's learning. All the children spend their time purposefully. They enjoy exploring a range of activities which contribute to their creativity and development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder promotes a positive view of the wider world and increases children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others, however her selection of toys and equipment that promotes diversity and equality of opportunity is limited. She has attended courses to improve her knowledge of this subject. Children learn about their local community as they visit places of interest such the park and the library.

The childminder has some experience of caring for older children with special needs. She would work with the parents and any outside agencies involved with the care of the child and provide toys and equipment that would promote the child's welfare and development.

Children understand right from wrong through boundaries, praise and the age-appropriate methods the childminder uses to manage behaviour including explanation and distraction. They are praised for their good behaviour.

Parents are fully informed about daily routines and activities through daily discussions. Information is shared and this enables the children to make progress in all areas of their development. All the children's individual needs are recorded and the parents' emergency contact details are kept.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All information is shared regularly with the parents, which keeps them well informed about the service and their children's activities. This contributes to continuity of the children's care. Children feel at home and at ease within an organised environment. Policies and procedures are used to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There no complaints to report.

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 the first aid box is complete
- provide a selection of toys and equipment that reflect diversity and equality of opportunity
- ensure fire blanket is kept in an accessible place.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk