



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	209675
Inspection date	04 January 2007
Inspector	Ann Winifred Harrison
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 1998. She lives with her husband and one daughter aged seven years. They live in a house on a large housing estate on the outskirts of Stafford. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding five children under five years and six children over five years on a part-time basis. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school. The family has a dog and two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Some positive steps are taken by the childminder to prevent the spread of infection. For example, she wipes the table before use and she wipes the nappy changing mat with anti-bacterial wipes after each use. However, the standard of hygiene in the kitchen is poor and the cat walks on the kitchen work surfaces. This compromises children's health. Children are beginning to learn the importance of personal hygiene through daily routines. They know they need to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet this helps to stop the spread of infection.

Written documents are in place to maintain the children's welfare, for example medication consent forms and accident records. However, the childminder is not aware of her responsibilities to notify Ofsted of any communicable diseases. This means that children's health is not fully protected.

Children and babies benefit from a varied and healthy diet. The childminder provides a cooked nutritious meal each day which includes meat and vegetables. They learn about healthy living through discussion as the childminder talks to the children about how too much sugar is bad for their teeth, and she explains that fruit is a healthy food, which they are encouraged to eat daily.

Children enjoy a range of energetic activities that contributes to a healthy lifestyle. They use a variety of outdoor equipment as well as regular visits to local parks and outdoor play spaces.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children's welfare is not protected because the childminder does not have a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures to be followed if she has any concerns about a child in her care.

Children are cared for in an environment, where risks to children are limited through positive safety and security procedures. The childminder uses a satisfactory range of safety equipment, such as safety gates, that restrict access to the kitchen, socket covers, smoke detectors and a fire blanket to ensure children are not exposed to dangers. Children are learning to keep themselves safe as they practise the emergency evacuation procedure each month. This helps to keep children safe.

Children are cared for in a secure home. The childminder monitors access to the premises at all times and precautions are taken to ensure the outdoor play area is secure. Children are able to access a range of stimulating toys and equipment to meet their individual needs. Space and resources are organised to allow children to move around freely, safely and independently. The children are closely supervised by the childminder at all times. They learn the importance of keeping safe whilst off the premises, for example, the childminder discusses road safety and why they need to hold on to the pushchair and stay close to the childminder. They are regularly

transported by car and the childminder uses appropriate car seats to ensure children's safety. Children also know how to react in the event of an emergency as they practise the emergency evacuation procedure on a regular basis. This helps to keep children safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well in the childminder's home. They experience a positive, warm relationship with her, which increases their sense of trust and well-being. The children gain positive levels of self-esteem and confidence through meaningful praise and encouragement from the childminder. They are able to develop their imagination and independence by selecting their own activities and initiating their own play. For example, playing with the cars, jigsaws and enjoying role play such as playing schools and shops. Children are interested and enjoy the activities provided by the childminder, they listen to stories and sing their favourite songs.

The children relate well to each other and learn to play co-operatively. They behave well and respond to the childminder when she asks them to sit at the table at lunchtime. The childminder uses everyday activities to extend children's learning. For example, counting the steps as they go up the stairs, recognising colours and shapes in the environment and encouraging children to write their own names.

The childminder has obtained and read 'Birth to three matters' framework, however, she is not yet using it to plan and provide activities for babies and young children to enhance their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a positive approach to managing children's behaviour to promote their welfare and development. Children's behaviour is generally good. Appropriate behaviour management strategies are used to manage children's behaviour such as, distracting young children with other activities and explaining to older children why their behaviour is not acceptable. Positive behaviour is encouraged through praise and encouragement. Children's individual needs are met, they develop a trusting and secure relationship with the childminder, who finds out about their specific needs through the use of contracts and discussing daily routines with parents. Activities and resources are arranged at appropriate heights and levels to enable children to initiate their own play.

Children learn about their community through outings in the local area. However, they do not learn about the wider world as the childminder has a limited understanding of the importance of promoting equal opportunities. There is a limited range of resources which provide children with the opportunity to explore other cultures and social diversity. This means their understanding of others is limited. Currently, there are no children with learning difficulties or disabilities or English as an additional language but the childminder is happy to care for children of all abilities and will work with parents and other agencies to support their learning and development.

The childminder develops positive relationships with parents and provides them with detailed verbal information on how their child has been whilst at the setting. Parents are made welcome in the setting and are made aware of how the setting operates through the discussion of policies and procedures at registration. There is a complaints procedure in place, which has been updated in line with current legislation which means parents are fully informed.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are settled and receive good support from the childminder. A range of policies and procedures are shared verbally with parents, they are kept informed about their child's routines and activities through verbal feedback at the end of the day. However, the registration certificate is not displayed and the childminder has not kept Ofsted informed of concerns regarding abuse, this means that registration requirements are not met.

Most documentation contributing to the children's well-being, health, safety and care are in place. For example, accident and medication consent procedures. There are suitable arrangements to protect children from persons who are not vetted. Individual records are completed for each child and written agreements are in place with each parent. However, the paperwork is not always easily accessible. Overall the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to: develop her knowledge and understanding of local child protection procedures to ensure appropriate action and protection of children is maintained; to ensure children are made aware of the emergency evacuation procedures; to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment, and to improve procedures to promote good health and take positive steps to limit the spread of infection and the risk of cross-contamination.

To address these issues the childminder has read current literature and obtained details of who to contact in the event of concerns regarding child abuse. However, she has failed to report such concerns to the appropriate authorities and this means children are not protected. This is carried forward to this inspection. The childminder has introduced monthly emergency evacuation practises with the children to ensure they know how to react in the event of an emergency. This helps to keep children safe. Written permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is now obtained for all children. This means that appropriate action can be taken in the event an emergency and children's welfare is safeguarded. Some measures have been introduced to promote good health, children now wash their hands before eating and after toileting and the tables are wiped before children use them to have their meals. The childminder now uses a changing mat for changing nappies which is wiped after each use. This helps to reduce the risk of infection and cross-contamination.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 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:

- ensure that any concerns are recorded and reported to Social Services or the police in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Boards procedures
- ensure the premises are clean
- extend knowledge of communicable diseases as defined by the Health Protection Agency and relevant reporting procedures
- comply with conditions of registration with regard to displaying the certificate
- ensure that Ofsted is informed of any allegations of abuse while the child is in the care of the childminder

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