



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	268348
Inspection date	13 November 2006
Inspector	Kashma Patel
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 2001. She lives with her husband and three children aged nine, 13 and 16 in Bedworth area of Coventry. The whole ground floor of the childminder's home used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children and is currently minding three children of whom two attend part-time. The family have a pet cat.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to the local library and the park. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are generally healthy because they are cared for in a clean and safe environment. They are learning about simple health and hygiene practices, such as the need to wash hands before food and after using the toilet. There are good procedures to minimise risk of cross infection for example, the use of an anti-bacterial spray when cleaning toys and equipment. The childminder does not have a valid first aid certificate, which means that children's health is compromised in the event of an accident.

Children's physical skills are well supported and children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their health. They have regular opportunities to exercise and get fresh air through daily walks to local parks and playgroups.

Children are well nourished and have their dietary needs met because the childminder works well with their parents. Their individual dietary needs are discussed with parents to ensure they are fully met. Children enjoy healthy snacks of fruit and yoghurt which promotes a healthy lifestyle. They are provided with regular drinks of sugar free squash, milk and water which keeps them well-hydrated. They were observed accessing their individual cups independently.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a homely environment where they feel secure and part of the family. Potential risks to children have been identified and appropriate safety equipment such as safety covers and locks are in place in the kitchen and lounge. Children's welfare is well promoted on outings because the childminder has written consent to transport children in the car and has appropriate documents, such as car insurance in place. Children are learning about road safety through role-play activities such as learning to cross the road safely. Photographs were observed of children playing with "stop" and "go" signs in the garden.

Children use a broad range of safe and appropriate resources that are easily accessible to encourage independence. Toys and equipment is changed frequently to ensure children are kept busy and occupied. The childminder carries out regular checks on toys and equipment to ensure they are safe for children to use and conform to safety standards.

Children are adequately protected because the childminder has satisfactory knowledge of child protection. She is aware of who to contact if she has any concerns and has appropriate numbers in place to promote children's welfare. Information is shared with parents to keep them well informed of the childminder's responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and are making good progress in their development. They move freely around the home and select from a good range of toys and resources. They are developing their creativity through a good range of art activities, they were proud to show the fridge magnets they had made of animals. They also enjoy carrying out experiments with ice cubes, children commented about the glitter and paint mixing together whilst looking at photographs. Children enjoy looking at their individual photo albums and older children are able to give good detail of past activities.

Children have good opportunities to learn about numbers and colours, a good range of computer toys were observed. They are developing their imagination by playing musical instruments and singing their favourite nursery rhymes, children are learning to follow correct actions to songs.

Children share, take turns and play both independently and alongside others with their peers. They are able to play freely in the garden with a good range of wheeled toys such as bikes, scooters and cars which promotes their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well supported because the childminder ensures that children are welcomed into her home. Their care needs are discussed with parents and routines are followed which helps them to settle with the childminder. Children are learning about diversity through a range of resources which reflect positive images of race, culture and disability. A selection of dolls, play people and books were observed. The childminder has a good awareness of how to include and appropriately care for children with disabilities.

Children are learning to manage their own behaviour, they are encouraged to tidy up toys when they have finished playing with them, which enables them to stay safe. Their positive self-esteem is encouraged through consistent praise and they are rewarded with certificates for good behaviour and helping each other. Children's achievements are shared with parents to keep them well informed about their children's progress.

Children benefit from the close verbal and written communication which contributes to a good partnerships with parents. The childminder monitors her practice by sending out regular questionnaires and seeking ways to improve the quality of care. Letters were observed from parents stating how happy and settled their children were with the childminder. Children's welfare is promoted because the childminder is aware that a complaints log needs to be maintained and shared with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are being protected because the childminder ensures that persons who have contact with the children are suitable and where appropriate have been through the vetting procedure.

The childminder ensures that ratios are met and maintained to allow children to receive appropriate individual attention. Children are confident and move around the room with ease. They initiate and develop their own play because they feel secure and relaxed. Children interact well with the childminder and with visitors.

Most suitable record keeping supports and promotes children's ability to stay safe, enjoy and achieve and make a positive contribution. However, the childminder has failed to undertake prescribed training.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and to ensure that the glass in the video cabinet conforms to British Safety Standards. Children are safeguarded because the childminder has consent for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and the childminder does not have the video cabinet any longer.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last since 1 April 2004.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by the 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):

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and children.

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