



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	402322
Inspection date	01 December 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 1996. She lives with her husband two adult children in Coventry. 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 minding three of whom two are under five. The childminder also cares for children over eight years old and walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local childminding groups in the area. The family has a pet dog and two cats.

The childminder is a member of the Birmingham Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally healthy because they are cared for in a clean environment. There are appropriate procedures in place to minimise the possible spread of infection, including the home being maintained to an appropriate standard of cleanliness and an exclusion policy for sick children. 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 as they enjoy a suitable range of activities which contribute to their health. They have regular opportunities to exercise and get fresh air through daily walks to schools and the local parks where they enjoy feeding the ducks.

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 bananas, apples and apricots which promotes a healthy lifestyle. They are kept well hydrated because the childminder ensures that their individual beakers are re-filled with water and children can access them 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 gates are in place in the kitchen. The childminder organises her day flexibly to ensure that children have a balance of interesting and stimulating activities inside and outside the home.

Children use an acceptable range of safe and developmentally appropriate resources that are easily accessible to encourage their independence. A range of baby toys are set out to interest and stimulate young children being cared for. Children enjoy playing with musical toys and rattles. The childminder carries out regular checks on toys and equipment to ensure they are suitable for the children to use safely.

Children's welfare is maintained as the childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of child protection issues such as signs of abuse. However, she is not aware of the procedures if allegations were made against her. This means parents are not kept fully informed of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settled and making suitable progress in their development. They have free access to a range of toys which interest and stimulate them. They are developing their confidence and self-esteem because the childminder spends time talking and playing with them, children

go up to her for cuddles and reassurance. The childminder knows the children well and meets their needs appropriately, she interacts positively with them. Children were observed playing with the construction toys on the floor which promotes their small muscle skills.

Children are learning to communicate with the childminder, they were observed pointing and making sounds to alert the childminder of their needs. They enjoy sitting on her lap and looking at books with her. Children are learning about their community through regular outings to local shops, they also enjoy riding on the bus.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued, respected as individuals and have equal access to a acceptable range of resources that reflect positive images of the wider world. They have opportunities to learn about cultural festivals such as Diwali through discussions and looking at books. The childminder has a good practical awareness of how to include and appropriately care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Children behave well and respond well to the childminder's consistent expectations about acceptable behaviour. She uses positive methods such as time-out to encourage appropriate behaviour. Children are learning to manage their behaviour. They are praised for sharing and helping each other.

Children's welfare is promoted through a satisfactory partnership with parents. The childminder spends time talking to parents on a daily basis about their children's progress which ensures that their needs are fully met. A log of complaints is not maintained to reflect the new regulations, this means that parents do not know of what action to take should they have concerns about the care of their children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that daily routines are flexible taking into account the children's individual needs and activities. She ensures children are able to play freely and make choices. They receive appropriate individual attention because ratios are kept low which promotes children's welfare.

The childminder has not yet submitted the relevant forms to Ofsted with regard to recent changes within the household and this impacts on children's welfare. However she is aware of ensuring that minded children are never left alone with persons who have not been cleared through the regulatory system.

Most suitable record keeping promotes the welfare and well-being of the children. However, the childminder has failed to undertake prescribed training. Documentation is carefully maintained and confidentiality is maintained at all times.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that a fire blanket which conforms to BS standards is accessible in the kitchen, to include hours of attendance in the daily record of children looked after and to continue to develop the range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Children's safety is promoted because a fire blanket is accessible in the kitchen. An accurate register is kept of children's attendance including their arrival and departure times which promotes their welfare. The childminder extends children's understanding of the wider world by ensuring they have a good selection of activities and resources including activity packs of different festivals.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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):

- ensure children are protected by developing knowledge of child protection procedures in relation to allegations made against the childminder
- keep a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and children.
- ensure that Ofsted is informed of any significant changes that affect the childminding.

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