



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY248441
Inspection date	31 October 2006
Inspector	Kim Sharratt
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 outstanding. 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 2003. She lives with a friend and her one child aged three years in Smethwick, West Midlands. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. First floor rooms are not used except the bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five, part time and one child over five, part time, before and after school. The childminder takes and collects children from local nursery and school.

The family have two dogs, a cat and two rabbits.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health and well-being are exceptionally well-promoted as they gain an excellent understanding of good hygiene practices and personal care through consistent, well-informed daily routines. The childminder ensures children learn why hand-washing is important in keeping them healthy as she encourages them to wash their hands after using the toilet, stroking the pets and before meals. These positive steps help to lessen the risks of cross contamination and the spread of infection. Written policies, procedures and records which include detailed information regarding children's accidents and medical needs are maintained and shared with parents. These contribute well to ensure that children who are ill are well cared for and their individual needs are adequately addressed.

Children are well nourished and their individual dietary needs thoughtfully addressed as they enjoy a healthy and varied range of meals and snacks. The childminder is very aware of and meets the needs of children with special dietary requirements. Individual dietary needs are recorded, and the childminder regularly consults with parents regarding the provision of snacks and meals to ensure dietary needs are met well. Children are able to make choices about some aspects of their snacks. They know the selection includes fresh fruit, breadsticks and healthy drinks such as water. Children delight in mealtimes because they are given time for them to enjoy their food and further enhance their developing skills and social interaction.

Focused activities and exceptional communication between the childminder and children promotes their understanding of staying healthy. Children benefit from a wide variety of opportunities to experience physical activity and develop their skills in and outdoors. They enjoy daily exercise such as walking and playing outdoors. These provide children with opportunities to challenge and extend their play as they enjoy climbing, running and balancing on the trampoline. They are beginning to develop a good awareness of how their bodies work, and know when they need a drink or a rest. The childminder is inventive to raising children's awareness of exercise through music and movement sessions.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in an environment where individual needs are met well and risks minimised effectively due to the meticulous attention of the childminder as she supervises children. They are relaxed and at ease in a clean, bright and well maintained home that allows them space and opportunities to enjoy meaningful activities indoors and outside. They benefit from a range of safety measures already in place to minimise hazards indoors such as written risk assessments which are detailed and methodically maintained, safety gates, smoke detectors, fire blanket and fire guard. High priority is given to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and safety issues discussed and explained, for example, they understand the importance and regularly practise fire evacuations. As a result, children's safety and welfare is exceptionally well promoted.

Children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Space is well used and resources organised effectively to meet children's individual needs. All toys and equipment are thoroughly checked to ensure they meet safety standards. Toys are easily accessible and at the children's level so they can independently select from the wide range of high quality resources available. These offer challenge and are appropriate to their age and stage of development. The childminder has an excellent understanding of creating a balance between encouraging children's freedom and setting limits to maintain safety.

Children are very well protected by the childminder who has a clear and focussed understanding of all aspects of child protection. Comprehensive and effective policies and procedures are in place to promote children's welfare. The childminder is keen to continue to undertake training that enhances her already extensive knowledge of child care related issues. She is fully aware of her role and responsibility in protecting children in her care and demonstrates a confident and competent attitude towards her role in the procedures to be followed and as a result children's safety and welfare is supported well.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Very close relationships between the childminder and the children are promoted exceptionally well contributing to children being highly motivated and eager to participate in the varied activities offered. They are confident, motivated, settled and happy because the childminder uses her knowledge and experiences successfully. Children are able to make choices about their play and join in enthusiastically as there is a stimulating range of child initiated and adult led activities which are interesting, fun and develop their creativity, curiosity and imagination.

Children's confidence and self-esteem are effectively promoted because the childminder ensures children are very well supported and encourages them to develop a sense of belonging. She has a very good understanding of how children learn and uses the 'Birth to three matters' framework and curriculum planning to provide challenge and recognise young children's potential and achievements. The childminder's interaction is exceptionally good; she has a very warm, calm rapport, shows great interest in what the children are doing, listens carefully and demonstrates a gentle and consistent approach. Activities are adapted to ensure that all children can participate; as a result children are very confident to experiment with new ideas and activities.

Children's language and communication skills are extremely well promoted as the childminder inspires them to try new activities in a safe environment. The childminder encourages them to share and take turns, and distinguish between wrong from right. Imaginatively planned activities enable children to have an excellent knowledge and understanding of the local community. They regularly visit places of interest, this helps children to develop a sense of the wider world.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs are exceptionally well supported because the childminder has a high regard for each child's particular needs to ensure their time is spent purposefully. Preferences and routines are respected to help the child settle quickly, relax and feel comfortable. The childminder is very aware of children's developmental stages and feels confident to approach parents if she is concerned about a child's progress. She knows where to obtain appropriate support to ensure that they can progress in their learning and development. This ensures children feel a sense of belonging, develop and establish caring relationships with each other and the childminder.

Children have considerable opportunities to learn about themselves and others in wider community. Imaginatively planned activities and visits to local places of interest help children gain a very good understanding of their environment. Children have access to a wide selection of resources that reflect positive images of society. They are given ample opportunities to celebrate festivals from other cultures through art/craft activities, singing and stories. Regular discussions take place which are helping to develop their awareness of the needs of others and encourage children's understanding of the wider world.

Children's behaviour is excellent due to the clear boundaries and positive role model set by the childminder. She has a warm rapport with the children and they all benefit from an abundance of attention and caring interaction. Their conversations are listened to and valued, and each child is praised for their achievements. Children are developing an understanding of the need to be polite, courteous and well-behaved as the childminder uses simple rules, gentle reminders and through discussions to help children know what is expected from them and ensuring they learn wrong from right. This is continually reinforced through daily routines and practices such as caring for each other and tidying away toys after use. As a result children behave well, take turns and share.

Children make significant progress in all areas of their development due to the exceptional partnership with parents that enhances all areas of the children's development and learning. There are very good systems in place for sharing information with parents and the childminder values their contributions to improve practice. Parents are respected as the people who know their own children best and the childminder actively encourages a positive, friendly and professional working relationship. Both written and daily verbal feedback compliments this partnership which ensures the needs of children cared for are appropriately addressed.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from the care of a childminder who is highly motivated and keen to increase her knowledge and good practice. She continues to evaluate her practice and is highly committed to improvement and development through regular and ongoing training for example the 'Birth to three matters' framework. The childminder is proficient in her understanding of the National Standards and ensures all household members are vetted and the regulator is informed of any changes in the household. This means children are well protected in her home.

Children's care is enhanced through the effective organisation of space and resources. The childminder makes good use of the space to ensure all children have the opportunity to complete activities, play, relax or talk about their day. The children spend their time purposefully and the varied programme of activities are planned to maximise play, development and learning opportunities. They are well supported, happy, comfortable and settled in a warm caring environment where their individual needs are met extremely well.

All documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being are appropriately maintained, up to date, and reviewed regularly. Comprehensive policies and procedures, children's records and parental contracts are shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service. These are stored confidentially and help to form a positive relationship with parents to promote children's care, learning and play.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous care inspection the childminder has developed a parents information pack. This includes all policies, procedures and business arrangements along with services offered.

As a result the care and welfare of children, their well being and safety are now considerably improved.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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