



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY263934
Inspection date	12 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged four and seven years. They live in Oldbury within walking distance of local amenities such as schools, shops and parks. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. First floor rooms used are one bedroom and the bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The childminder walks to a local school to take and collect children.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding six children between the ages of nine months to seven years who attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is suitably promoted as they are cared for in a warm and welcoming home environment. They are beginning to learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through consistent daily routines. The childminder ensures children learn why hand washing is important in keeping them healthy. She encourages them to wash their hands after using the toilet or stroking the dog. Children's individual health needs are satisfactorily supported and procedures are in place. For example, parental consent is in place in case emergency medical treatment is required.

Children's individual dietary needs are met because the childminder discusses each child's requirement and preferences with parents. The childminder is aware of providing healthy options and children are offered fresh fruit, yoghurt, sandwich or toast. Drinks are freely available; water, fruit juice or sugar free squash. This ensures children learn about healthy food options. Children enjoy mealtimes because they are encouraged to socially interact, developing and enhancing their social skills.

Children are developing an acceptable awareness of the importance of physical development and exercise as they enjoy a range of activities such as playing in the garden or attending local play group and visits to the park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into a family-orientated environment where they feel at home and secure. They are able to select from a good range of toys and resources which stimulate and develop their skills and imagination. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises the use of toys to make sure they are safe and used appropriately by the children.

The childminder has an understanding of the importance of health and safety; she assesses potential risks and supervises children well. Children benefit from the basic range of safety measures in place to minimise hazards and enable them to explore the surroundings safely. For example, safety gates are used to prevent access to the stairs and kitchen. Children are kept safe on outings because they are supervised well by the childminder. They are developing an awareness of safety because the childminder talks to them about road safety. However children are not always kept safe as she has not devised or practised an emergency escape plan with the children.

The childminder has a good understanding and knowledge of child protection and a satisfactory understanding of the indicators of abuse and neglect. She is aware of her responsibility to protect children in her care. She has a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are comfortable and relaxed in the childminder's home and she has developed a caring relationship with them. They develop their play and learning because the childminder has a good understanding of child development. She provides them with a wide range of activities and experiences both inside and outside the home. Children take part in a varied range of outings, these include visits to local parks, parent and toddler groups where they mix with other children.

Children are given time to play, enjoy and learn independently. The children benefit from being able to take part in a wide range of worthwhile and interesting activities. The childminder ensures children have a varied day and they enjoy activities which contribute to their creativity and imagination, for example art and craft activities. During routine activities children are introduced to colours, shapes, numbers and letters. This helps children acquire new knowledge and skills.

Children have good access to outdoor play and enjoy visiting the local park regularly.

The childminder's interaction with the children is good, she listens to what they are saying and shows interest in what they are doing. This helps children to develop confidence, extend their language skills and make positive relationships.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a sense of belonging because of the familiar routines. Regular discussions with parents ensure children's individual needs are met, for example, their routines, likes, dislikes and preferences. Children benefit from being cared for in accordance with their parents wishes and information is exchanged on a daily basis between. Positive relationships between all contribute to the children's well-being. The childminder provides resources which reflect positive images of different cultures, gender and disability. These help children to develop a positive understanding and sense of the wider society and world we live in.

Although the childminder has no experience of providing care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities she is sensitive towards inclusion. She is aware of children's developmental stages. Consequently, she feels able to approach parents if she is concerned about a child's progress and obtain appropriate support to ensure any specific needs are met.

Children are developing an awareness of right from wrong because the childminder talks to them about simple rules. They are encouraged to listen, share and consider the impact of their behaviour on others. Children respond positively to the calm and consistent approach of the childminder. She praises, encourages and rewards them for their achievements.

Children benefit from being cared for in accordance with their parents' wishes and the information shared between the childminder and parents on a daily basis. Positive relationships all round contribute to the children's well-being. Parents are aware of how they make a

complaint, although the procedure does not reflect the recent amendments to the National Standards.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's needs are supported appropriately, this is because space and resources are organised well and this enables children develop their independence. They settle easily into this relaxed family atmosphere and benefit from established daily routines which have regard for their individual needs. Children have access to a secure and well-maintained outdoor area.

Children's health, safety, enjoyment and care is generally promoted through satisfactory record keeping and good partnership with parents. Parents are aware of the childminder's record keeping procedures and documentation is stored securely and confidentially.

The provision meets 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 of working with children with special needs. The childminder has completed training workshops, increasing her knowledge and understanding in this area. This has been addressed sufficiently well to ensure children's individual care needs and requirements are met.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, there has been one complaint made to Ofsted that requires the provider to take action in order to meet the National Standards.

Concerns were raised regarding over minding and the supervision of children. These concerns relate to National Standard 1: Suitable Person and National Standard 12: Behaviour. Ofsted made an unannounced visit to the childminder to investigate the concerns. Ofsted raised one action. This was to record information relating to individual children and to make sure that the names of the children being looked after and their hours of attendance is recorded on a daily basis. The childminder has addressed the action raised and remains qualified for registration.

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 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):

- develop the complaints procedure to reflect amendments to the National Standards.

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