



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY293534
Inspection date 16 May 2005
Inspector Julie Larner

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 good. 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 December 2004. She lives in the Biddick Woods area of Houghton-le-Spring with her husband and three children. The childminder uses the whole of the ground floor for childminding. There is a living room, toilet and kitchen on the ground floor. Children also have access to a bedroom on the first floor, however this room is only used for children to rest. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently caring for three children who attend on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home. They are beginning to understand the importance of good personal hygiene by learning to wash their hands. The childminder's procedures for limiting cross-infection helps children to stay healthy, for example, by using disposable gloves to change nappies and having individual items for washing.

Children benefit from physical exercise, which helps them to gain good control over their bodies. Garden games and regular trips to local parks and playgrounds improve children's physical skills. Children use push toys and kick balls successfully.

Children enjoy a healthy diet. They try varied and nutritious snacks that appeal to them and meet their individual dietary needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment. The effective organisation of space and the good levels of support provided by the childminder allow children to move around safely and independently, helping children to retain a balance of freedom and safe limits. Children are beginning to learn about basic road safety to enable them to stay safe outdoors.

Children choose from a wide range of toys which are stored in a way that encourages children to make choices. Children enjoy a good range of activities that allow them to develop imagination, language and creativity. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure that they are safe and appropriate for their ages and stages of development.

The childminder safeguards children's welfare by having a secure understanding of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy being involved in conversation. The childminder provides good explanations to children's questions, which helps them to extend their learning. She praises them for their efforts and, because of this, children are confident about expressing their needs, for example children ask for a towel to dry the swing.

Children have good relationships with each other. They are settled and relaxed in the home. Children make choices confidently about what they want to do. Due to the childminder supporting children's choices they feel confident about approaching the

childminder, for example, they ask to play outdoors. The childminder provides a good range of stimulating activities which children enjoy.

Children are learning to count and the childminder encourages this by using counting in everyday activities, for example children count the items they have made from play dough.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well. They show an increasing understanding of the needs of others and some show an excellent understanding and respect for the younger children's differences, for example, children are very willing to play different games so that all children can be included. They share and take turns with little prompting due to the childminder's high expectations of behaviour and her successful use of praising children's achievements. Children play well together and have good manners.

Children are learning about their local community through regular attendance at toddler groups. They are beginning to gain an understanding of people with differences through the fun and stimulating activities provided by the childminder. The childminder shows a good understanding of equal opportunities, which ensures that all children are included in the activities provided and this raises their self-esteem, for example, younger children are supported successfully in their play by the childminder.

Children make decisions confidently. They choose what they wish to do and the childminder responds flexibly to these, for example, children choose to play in the garden and decide to make shapes with the play dough.

Children's needs are met well due to the good relationships the childminder has with parents and the way she works in partnership with them, such as the collection of relevant information about individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease in the well organised environment. This means that they are confident to initiate their own play.

Good routines of the day allow children to experience a range of exciting activities in the home and the wider community. Home-based activities are chosen by the children and the childminder supports younger children well to ensure that they are included.

The childminder shows a commitment to enhancing her practise through attendance at regular courses. This allows her to reflect on and improve her practise, which in turn benefits the children.

The childminder uses policies and procedures effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 good. 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 that parental consent is obtained before administering medication.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk