



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	161100
Inspection date	30 October 2006
Inspector	Jean Williams

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 2001. She is registered to care for four children under eight. There are currently three children on roll who have full and part time places.

The childminder lives with her husband and three school aged children. The family live in a residential area, within in walking distance of shops and schools. All areas of the property, except the kitchen and one bedroom, are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family have two dogs and a hamster as pets.

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 promoted by the positive standards of hygiene and the regular routines within the home. Through clear explanations and role models the childminder is helping to develop the children's understanding of the reasons why personal hygiene is important.

The childminder has strategies in place to minimise the risks of the possible spread of infection. Children do not attend if they are ill, other than minor coughs or colds. Parents are informed of any illness in the setting so they are able to decide if the child should attend. Most documentation is in place to ensure children's health and welfare is promoted, for example medication records are kept and accidents are recorded as required, but the childminder has not sought written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment or to apply creams and lotions to children. She has a current first aid certificate which means that she has the qualifications to deal with any accidents that may arise.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their positive health. They are taken to play in the local park and there are regular opportunities for them to play in the garden. There is a wide range of suitable outdoor toys and equipment, such as sit and ride toys, the see saw and balls, all of which help them to develop good physical skills.

The childminder works in partnership with the parents to ensure children's individual dietary needs are met. Children are provided with a varied diet containing healthy foods that they enjoy eating such as meat and vegetables, fresh fruit and yoghurt. The childminder keeps parents informed about their children's daily food intakes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in a comfortable and well maintained environment. The childminder has ensured that they have plenty of space to play and move around. Children benefit from being able to access the wide range of toys and resources independently. The childminder has equipment and furniture available to meet the needs of the children when required, such as a travel cot.

The childminder has taken positive steps to remove hazards and keep the home safe, allowing the children to play independently and with confidence. For example safety gates are in place at the entrance to the kitchen and at the bottom of the stairs. The childminder supervises the children closely throughout the day, however, the childminder's own children are allowed to open the front door to callers which could compromise the children's safety. The childminder has ensured that she has appropriate safety seats fitted in her car and children are always safely secured, she has however, not obtained written parental consent to take children on outings or to travel in her vehicle.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's clear understanding of her role and responsibility in safeguarding children and the reporting procedures in relation to child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and settled in the childminder's house. They have space and opportunities to play freely. The children are learning to play together encouraged by the childminder. They are increasing their development skills through the range of toys provided by the childminder such as the puzzles and the books.

On the day of the inspection the children enjoyed playing with the wooden train track. With help from the childminder they made a track, assembled the train and then proceeded to place the people around the track, with the minded child pointing out one figure that he said looked like his Daddy. The childminder gave him praise and encouraged him to find a figure that looked like Mummy. Interaction between the children and the childminder is warm and caring.

Children have opportunities to rest and relax while watching television. They also have opportunities to explore and learn about the local environment, when the childminder takes them to local parks and shops. Children are developing their physical skills as they run in the park and play in the garden.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children have opportunities to learn to value themselves and others through sharing books that include positive images and examples of how people live. Children are learning to be independent, they are happy and confident with the childminder and each other. They play with one another, and are encouraged by the childminder to share and to take turns.

The childminder knows the children well, she provides for their individual needs. Firm consistent boundaries encourage children to know what is expected of them and behave well, as a result their behaviour is good.

Children are well cared for in accordance with their parents' wishes. The childminder has developed a good working relationship with them. She ensures that they are kept fully informed about their child's progress and the activities within the setting through daily verbal feedback.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a positive understanding of the needs of young children, as a result they are confident in the childminder's home. Established routines are in place, which means that children know what is expected of them, this adds to their confidence and security.

The childminder has systems in place to make sure that all documentation pertaining to the children's care and welfare is kept up to date as required. This ensures that the children's needs are provided for as agreed with their parents.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to provide toys and resources which reflect positive images of differing abilities. This has been achieved and the childminder has a range of toys and books that provide positive images to children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 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 that written parental consent is in place to apply sun creams and lotions.
- ensure that written parental consent is in place to take children on outings and to travel in the childminder's car
- ensure that parental consent is in place to seek emergency medical treatment
- ensure that children are not able to open the front door

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