



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY299735
Inspection date	18 July 2005
Inspector	Karen Eunice Millerchip

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged five and seven years. They live in a house on the South side of Coventry, the whole of the ground floor and two first floor bedrooms are used for minding. There is a secure rear garden suitable for outdoor play. Shops, schools and local community resources are within walking distance.

The childminder may care for four children under eight years; currently she cares for one child of one year and one child of four and a half years on a full and part-time basis. Children can be taken to and collected from the local school and pre-school

group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding association and regularly visits local community groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene through daily routines. The childminder supports younger children in washing hands after toileting and before meals. Older children are encouraged to become independent in self-help skills. Standards of hygiene and cleanliness are good throughout and children are encouraged to help with cleaning tables before lunch and after messy play. Children's needs are well met should they become ill whilst being cared for by the childminder, they are comforted until collected by a parent or carer and other children are kept occupied away from the sick children to minimise the spread of infection. Parents are given clear guidance on the procedures to follow if their child is sick at home or if they become unwell whilst in the care of the childminder. Minor accidents or illness to children are dealt with appropriately as the childminder has a relevant first aid certificate and the first aid box is well stocked. Children receive appropriate attention when they become ill, need medication or have an accident as the childminder keeps accurate documentation and is aware of the correct procedures to be followed.

Children are kept healthy as they are provided with a well balanced range of meals, snacks and drinks. They are encouraged to learn about how to keep their bodies healthy and which types of food is bad for them, for example the effect of too much sugar on teeth, too much salt on your heart. Children bring a packed lunch but the childminder provides healthy drinks, snacks and tea time meals if required for example sugar free squash, water or milk, fruit, raw vegetables, yoghurts, raisins, pasta with vegetables, quorn sausages. Children can freely access their drinks throughout the day so they do not get thirsty. Children's individual dietary needs are well catered for as parents share comprehensive information on children's preferences and individual dietary needs.

Children have plenty of opportunities to develop and practice physical skills during walks within the community and whilst visiting 'Stay and Play' sessions. They can freely access a broad range of well maintained outdoor play activities within the childminders garden such as a large integrated climbing frame and slide, bikes, balls. Children learn about how things grow during their time digging and planting in their own area within the garden. Children are encouraged to use equipment that is age-appropriate and provides a challenge for example, the climbing frame.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and well maintained home. Their risk to injury is minimised as the childminder uses information gained on recent health and safety training to assess the condition of toys, equipment and the areas to be used on a daily basis. Any potential hazards have been assessed and appropriate actions taken to minimise the effect on the children. This means that children move independently around the house and access well maintained toys and equipment. Resources are stored at a low level so children can freely and safely help themselves. Children are learning about keeping others safe as they are aware that toys in certain boxes cannot be used in the same play area as small children or babies. Children have a dedicated play area, and the use of a stair gate prevents babies from accessing unsuitable toys such as small construction, threading beads, scissors. Children's safety and welfare are promoted well as they are made aware of possible safety issues when out and about through clear explanation and discussion regarding strangers, road safety, dangerous objects. The children are always closely supervised to minimise any incidental accidents or injuries. Therefore, children can play safely whilst indoors and outdoors as all areas are appropriate for children to use and the garden and premises are secure.

Comprehensive fire safety precautions are in place and the childminder has a well developed written evacuation procedure. Several exits are identified, routes to be followed and meeting points are identified. Children practice the drill to ensure they are familiar with the routine and can make a quick exit from the premises should an emergency occur.

Children's welfare is well protected through the childminder's sound understanding of her role and responsibilities regarding keeping children safe. The childminder has recently attended child protection training which has increased her understanding of the signs, symptoms and procedures to follow if she had concerns regarding a child's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and confident. They relate well to each other and socialise with other children through regular attendance at local community groups and when visiting other childminders. Children experience a wide variety of activities and experiences both within the home and when out and about. Children are learning and developing new skills such as early writing, early reading skills, and developing fine manipulative and physical skills through the range of activities and opportunities that they regularly experience. Toys and equipment are well organised and stored suitably in low level drawers or in boxes on the floor. Children are able to have free choice when choosing toys and play activities thereby encouraging their self confidence and independence. They are also encouraged to help tidy away before selecting alternative toys.

Children are happy and keen to play with the resources provided. The children have developed positive relationships with each other and the childminder, good conversations take place and children are encouraged to think through any problems

and to learn about colour, shape, numerals and letters. The daily routine is planned around the children's needs and other commitments such as attending pre-school. The children enjoy a wide range of activities that support learning and development as the childminder uses the Foundation Stage and 'Birth to three matters' guidance to increase her knowledge of child development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are fully understood and met by the childminder. Information on children's admission details are very comprehensive and include the child's attainments within the home, list of comforters or favourite toys, dietary requirements including the child's likes and dislikes, daily routines including times for sleep or rest.

Children are gradually introduced to the childminder, her family and the home environment through a planned period of introduction. This enables the childminder, child and parent to get to know each other and to share as much information as possible thereby increasing the child's confidence within the setting. Children's care is positive, their needs are monitored and provided for as ongoing daily information sharing takes place between parents and the childminder.

Children's welfare is promoted well through the childminder's excellent understanding of individual needs. Children needing additional support are cared for in a positive and stimulating environment. Younger children are beginning to learn about minority groups in society and the wider community. However, older children's knowledge and learning in these areas is not promoted as well and age appropriate resources within the home are limited.

Children's care is fostered well through the childminder's strong relationships with parents. They work together to provide a consistent approach with regard to issues such as behaviour management.

Children understand house rules and show behave well as the childminder uses consistent methods of behaviour management in line with a child's level of understanding. They build strong relationships, play well together and show care and concern for each. Their self-esteem and confidence is supported through frequent praise and encouragement for achievements and good behaviour.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are settled and made welcome in the childminder's home. They enjoy a well planned day with a broad range of activities to encourage learning and development.

Children have well ordered play space to provide for their needs and allows them to safely explore their environment both indoors and outside.

Children's care is well met as the childminder maintains comprehensive information on children's individual needs. Good policies and documentation is in place and very well maintained and thereby allows for prompt action in the case of a query or emergency regarding children's well-being.

Children's welfare is enhanced through the childminder's strong knowledge and understanding of her role and responsibilities which is regularly updated by attending additional training. Therefore, overall the needs of all children are met.

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):

- continue to develop older children's understanding of minority groups in society by further development of the range of resources available.

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