



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY331650
Inspection date	04 October 2006
Inspector	Jasvinder Kaur
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 2006. She lives with her husband and three children aged eight, seven and three in Pendeford, Wolverhampton. All areas, except for the main bedroom, of the childminder's house are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five on a part time basis. The childminder takes children to and collects them from the local school. She attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a hamster and two cats.

The childminder is a member of National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of energetic physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They develop self-confidence in their physical skills as they use a wide range of indoor and outdoor toys and equipment. They enjoy playing in the garden and at their local park, and walking to their local facilities. There are suitable arrangements for children to get necessary rest and sleep.

The children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through well organised activities and routines. They wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. They are protected from the spread of infection because there is a procedure in place to exclude children with infectious illnesses. The childminder is well aware of the necessity of keeping a record of accidents to children. Medication records are well maintained and shared with parents who countersign all entries. This promotes children's welfare.

Children benefit from healthy and nutritious meals which cater for their individual needs. They enjoy fresh fruits at snack times. Children understand why it is important to eat healthy food. They are also developing an awareness of healthy eating through role play and appropriate toys. All children are regularly offered drinks to ensure none remain thirsty. A selection of drinks is readily accessible for them at all times. They enjoy a relaxed atmosphere at mealtimes. The childminder is well aware of children's dietary requirements and preferences through consultation with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children feel secure and safe as the childminder provides a safe environment. The childminder carries out safety checks around the areas which minimise the risks to children. They are encouraged to learn about possible hazards and to keep themselves safe both indoors and on outings. Safety issues are highlighted in house rules. The good organisation of toys and equipment enables children to move around safely in the house and garden. Mostly the children are well supervised, but sleeping children are not checked sufficiently frequently to ensure their safety. Children develop a good awareness of safety measures through emergency evacuation drills on a regular basis.

Children benefit from a welcoming environment as the rooms are decorated with children's art work. Space is used appropriately and creatively in the house and in the garden. Children have easy access to a wide range of toys and equipment which enables them to develop their learning skills. The resources are well organised to provide free choice to encourage children's independence.

The children are well protected because the childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of her child protection responsibilities. She is able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children show interest and happily take part in a wide range of good quality activities and play opportunities. They are confident in the setting and positively interact with the childminder and each other. The childminder responds well to their individual needs. To develop their imagination and language they take part in a variety of learning experiences. For example, they listen to stories with increasing attention and ask questions. They use their imagination in art and design and take part in role play, pretending to prepare and serve drinks and food. In group activities they take turns and share fairly. For instance, they all play with a train track and follow the instructions to make bridges and tunnels using their legs and bodies.

Children explore and take part in physical activities regularly and make good use of local facilities. Using a variety of toys and equipment, they develop their intellectual skills. For example, they sort various toys by colour and count those that belong together. Children are involved in a wide range of first hand learning experiences including cooking, gardening and painting. Younger children use crayons to make lines on paper. They develop their social skills and enjoy being with other children at the childminders' network meetings and at the toddler group. This means children make good progress in most areas of learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The children have a sense of belonging. All children are encouraged to take part in activities. Although there are no children currently attending the setting who have special needs, the childminder is able to provide care which includes them in the life of the setting through discussing their needs with parents. However, the children develop only a limited knowledge and understanding of diversity because they do not have regular access to the appropriate resources for this purpose. They are involved in decision making when selecting resources, activities and food. They are becoming independent in feeding and dressing themselves.

The children are happy and well behaved. The childminder uses a positive and consistent approach to managing behaviour which takes into account children's level of understanding and maturity. They are encouraged to share with and respect others through her positive role model and example. Behaviour management is discussed with parents through verbal communication and well documented policies.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are at ease in an organised and safe environment. They benefit from welcoming premises where they feel secure and their individual needs are taken into account. The childminder regularly attends courses to update her knowledge of childcare issues. She holds a first aid certificate which is regularly updated. She has suitable arrangements to protect children and has undertaken relevant vetting procedures. This ensures that children receive appropriate care.

All of the childminder's documents are clear, well maintained and stored appropriately to ensure confidentiality. They are readily available for inspection and shared with parents to keep them informed of their child's care and routines. Additional documentation is made available to parents relating to the childminder's qualifications, policies and information about the service provided.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 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 sleeping children are sufficiently frequently checked
- ensure children have regular access to a range of resources that reflect positive images of diversity

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