



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	255002
Inspection date	08 December 2006
Inspector	Shami Kumar
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1997. She lives with her husband and two children aged 13 and 15 years. The family live in a house in Great Barr, Birmingham. The whole of the ground floor and first floor with the exception of the main bedroom and study is used for childminding. There is access to an outdoor enclosed garden.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under the age of eight; of these, not more than three may be under five years, and of these, not more than one may be under one year. She is currently minding 15 children and of these eight are under eight. Most of the children attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She has a childcare qualification and runs a playgroup.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a clean home. They learn to protect themselves from infection as they wash their hands after using the toilet, however they do not fully develop good health and hygiene routines, as they do not always wash their hands before eating. The childminder takes care to clean equipment and surfaces with anti-bacterial spray, however children are not fully protected as good hygiene practices are not always maintained.

The childminder has a well-stocked first aid kit so is therefore able to take appropriate action in case of an accident. She has arrangements with parents to ensure appropriate care when children are ill or infectious. However, children's welfare is compromised as the childminder does not always obtain prior written permission for administering medication or for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children's individual dietary needs are catered for and the children are offered regular snacks and meals. Children make healthy choices, as fruit and fresh vegetables are offered. Children have access to drinks during the day, ensuring that they are well hydrated. Children enjoy regular outdoor exercise, as they attend the local playgroup and parent and toddler group. They develop appropriate physical skills as they use the range of equipment available in the childminder's garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children experience care within an environment that is welcoming with sufficient space to play and relax. They can move around the home independently because the childminder minimises most risks within the home and garden area. For example, sockets are protected, and safety gates are fitted to prevent access in certain areas. However children's safety is compromised because bleach is accessible in the first floor bathroom. Appropriate fire equipment such as a fire blanket and smoke detectors are provided, however, children are not fully protected in the event of a fire as no fire practises have been carried out.

The childminder ensures children understand safe practices when going on outings, for example, she talks to the older children about road safety and how to keep safe, and younger children are encouraged to hold onto the pushchair. She uses appropriate car and booster seats and has the necessary documentation and permissions in place. Children select from a suitable range of toys, books and equipment. Space and resources are appropriately organised and children are adequately supervised. There is a satisfactory range of equipment available to meet the needs of babies and young children. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has sound knowledge of child protection issues and procedures to follow should she have a concern about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the setting. They have warm relationships with the childminder who interacts with them in a friendly manner. Children are appropriately praised in order to encourage them and to develop their self-esteem. Children develop independence as they choose freely from a range of resources. They have great fun in emptying out all the toys from the toy boxes. Children develop their imagination through role play opportunities. For example, they play houses using the play kitchen, they pretend to go shopping with their trolleys and dress up.

Children enjoy the social opportunities provided within the setting and form close friendships. They have appropriate opportunities to socialise out of the home and to learn about their local area. For example, they go to the park, go on walks and attend the parent and toddler group where they engage in a variety of creative activities. The emotional needs of babies and young children are sufficiently met as they are acknowledged and affirmed. For example, the childminder holds the baby and responds positively to his smiles, gurgling and babbling, and includes the younger children in her discussions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated as individuals because the childminder discusses their needs and routines with the parents. Children feel a sense of belonging as they are included within the home setting. For example, the childminder takes care to ensure she understands any differing needs such as routines, encourages them to bring things from home and regularly gives them hugs and cuddles. They are helped to develop an awareness of the local community as they visit the bird sanctuary and visit the shops to buy things. They have opportunities to learn about diversity as the children have access to a satisfactory range of resources. The childminder has an adequate understanding of issues to consider if asked to care for a child with special needs.

Children are well behaved as they are well occupied and feel secure. They learn responsible behaviour, as the childminder uses satisfactory methods with discussions to encourage good behaviour. Children understand how to share and play happily together and develop their self-esteem as they play. Continuity of children's care is sufficiently encouraged, as daily discussions are held with parents to ensure they are informed of children's routines. The childminder has written contracts with parents in order to form professional working relationships with them.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The premises are organised to meet children's needs and routines are established to help them feel secure. Children feel at home at home and the organisation of space and resources allows them to make some choices. The childminder keeps an accurate record of children's attendance,

however, children's welfare is significantly compromised as the childminder is currently not meeting required adult to child ratios on a routine basis.

Documentation is in satisfactory order, although all documentation was not available for inspection and there are omissions for certain aspects such as prior written permission for administering medication and for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment. Parents are mainly informed of the childminder's practice and procedures through discussion.

Overall, the needs of the children cared for are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to extend the availability of play materials which reflect positive images of culture and disability.

Since the last inspection the childminder now has cooking equipment, books, dressing up clothes and puzzles which reflect images of culture and disability. These resources have extended children's knowledge of diversity and the wider world.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that you meet the required adult to child ratio at all times
- obtain prior written permission from parents before administering medication to children
- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment

- implement good hygiene practices in order to prevent the spread of infection, paying particular attention to hand washing, nappy changing and sleeping arrangements
- devise and practise an emergency escape plan
- ensure hazardous substances such as bleach is inaccessible to children.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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