



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY258288
Inspection date	18 January 2007
Inspector	Hazel Christine White

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 has been registered since 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and five years. They live in the of Coventry of the West Midlands. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

The childminder has a childcare qualification to level three. She is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently caring for two children aged two years, one of whom attends on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children understand good health and hygiene procedures as the childminder ensures that they learn to wash their hands before eating food, after messy play and toileting. Children clean their teeth after meals and have different colour coded towels. Toys, equipment and bedding are clean and washed regularly which reduces the risk of cross infection. Children rest and sleep following their home routines. The childminder has a sickness policy which is shared with parents to ensure that they know when to keep their unwell children at home. Positive steps have been taken when children have an accident. The childminder has a current first aid certificate and accident and medicine records are in place. The first aid box is properly stocked and readily available.

Children enjoy a varied range of activities which effectively promotes their physical development. They enjoy going on walks through the woods in all weathers. They are appropriately dressed in rain coats and wellies and have fun splashing in puddles. Children play with wheeled toys and balls in the garden and use large climbing equipment in the local park and soft play area. Children learn to manoeuvre bikes and develop their balance and co-ordination as they jump on a trampoline and climb apparatus. They do not, however, discuss the effect exercise has on the body, therefore, their understanding of the importance of being active and the impact that it has on their bodies is limited.

Children are well nourished because they are provided with a range of healthy hot and cold snacks such as sandwiches, cheese and crackers and pasta dishes. They are encouraged to eat fruit and grow tomatoes which increases their understanding of a healthy life style. Their specific dietary needs and parental preferences are taken into account. Water is always readily available and their cups are replenished throughout the day to ensure children are hydrated. Mealtimes are relaxed, sociable occasions. Children sit at a table to eat their food and good manners are encouraged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to self select from a good range of toys and equipment which meet required safety standards and their developmental needs. The play room is set out with different types of activities to enable children to independently access resources. Toys and equipment are regularly checked and repaired to ensure that they are safe for children to use. Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment because potential hazards have been minimised by the use of safety equipment. Baby toys are monitored to make sure that they are suitable for their age and stage of development.

Children are well supervised both indoors and outside and are learning the importance of staying safe because of sensitive reminders about rules and boundaries. Children know for instance that they do not climb on furniture or leave toys on the floor because it is hazardous. Older children are involved in discussions about road safety and are learning about stranger danger.

They look at books on different aspects of safety and colour in road safety pictures which the childminder uses to promote discussion. The fire blanket is readily available and smoke alarms are in working order. An emergency escape plan is in place and has been practised by all children. This information is recorded on the attendance register and smoke alarm batteries are checked at the same time. Therefore, children know what to do in the event of a fire.

Children's welfare is safeguarded through the childminder's sound understanding of her role and responsibilities in child protection. She has attended training and developed a policy, which is shared with parents, so they are fully aware of the procedure to be followed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and have developed a strong relationship with the childminder and her family. They are cared for in a homely environment and make decisions about their play and learning by choosing from a wide variety of worthwhile toys and activities. Children follow familiar daily routines and move freely around rooms. More able children select from resources independently and confidentially ask for their favourites. The childminder has a good knowledge of child development and provides activities which reflect the children's interests. She is becoming familiar with the 'Birth to three matters' framework and ensures, by adapting activities, that young children are able to participate and progress in their learning.

Children enjoy working with a range of art and craft materials such as glue, paints, glitter and tissue paper. They explore and experiment with play dough, water and sand and grow tomatoes and sun flowers. Routines and everyday situations are used to develop children's knowledge of colours, shapes, letters, numbers and textures. Children experience learning and play opportunities outside of the home. They visit the local park, walk in the woods and loan books from the library. Children have the opportunity to travel on train and visit museums.

Children's achievements are regularly praised to develop their confidence and maintain their self-esteem. The childminder joins in with the children's spontaneous play and interaction is good. She shares ideas and encourages children to ask questions and problem solve. Children are busy and having fun. They play with the full range of resources and spend their time purposefully. Photos are used to enable the children to recall and reflect on the past.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met because the childminder consults with parents about their personal requirements. They follow familiar routines which helps them to develop a sense of belonging. Children have equal access to a good range of resources and activities which help them appreciate the wider world by showing positive images of people in society. Children are developing a positive attitude towards others by the use of books, play-people and games which promote discussion. The childminder has experience of caring for children with additional needs and learning disabilities. Children of all abilities are welcomed and are fully included in

play activities with support. Activities enable children to make progress in their learning and the childminder willingly works along side parents and other professionals.

Children are aware of rules regarding behaviour and learn to share, take turns and consider others. Their behaviour is managed consistently because parents are involved in discussion. Strategies include distracting children and ensuring that they have clear boundaries and guidance. Children learn to develop respect for themselves and others because they are encouraged to say sorry if they hurt one another either physically or feelings. Children respond positively when praised and are rewarded for behaving as expected. The childminder focuses on raising children's self esteem and is a good role model as she takes into account different levels of development.

Parents' have developed a good relationship with the childminder and regularly share information about their child's needs, interests and experiences to ensure continuity of care. Their opinions and comments are valued and respected. Children have settling in visits and a gradual introduction to help the separation from their parents. Parents' are kept informed of their child's daily routine including activities they have taken part in during the day. The childminder has developed a range of policies and procedures which cover all aspects of care. They are readily available to parents and other useful information is displayed on a notice board in the hall.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and enjoy the space to move freely between rooms, although a designated play room is utilised for the majority of indoor activities. The day is organised around the children's routines and the childminder is actively involved in children's spontaneous play. Her practice meets the needs of individual children. They have a wide variety of activities and play experiences. Children explore readily accessible toys and resources which are educational and contribute to their learning. Time is organised well to meet the individual needs of the children attending.

Policies and procedures are effective in promoting the welfare, care and learning of the children. Records are kept up to date and are securely stored. The childminder is interested in training to keep her knowledge and skills updated. She has attended various childcare courses on different aspects of childcare to enhance her practice. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that all electrical wires were inaccessible to children to prevent tripping hazards, ensure daily attendance records were maintained and obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. The childminder has taken positive steps to ensure that children are safe by removing the electrical wires. Attendance records are satisfactorily maintained, therefore, children are accurately accounted for. Children are appropriately provided for in an emergency because written permission for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment has been obtained from parents.

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 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):

- develop the children's understanding of the importance of being active.

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