



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY285542
Inspection date	06 December 2006
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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and four years. They live in the Coventry area of the West Midlands. The whole of the ground floor and the box room on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends a local parent and toddler group. The family has two cats.

The childminder is in the process of completing a childcare qualification to level two. She is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently caring for three pre-school aged children. All attend on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of hygiene and personal care. They follow hand washing routines before eating and cooking and after toileting and messy play. Children have their own colour coded towels. They see the childminder follow good hygiene practices and toys and equipment are cleaned regularly to reduce the risk of infection. Positive steps have been taken when children are ill or have an accident. Parents are provided with a copy of the health policy. Accident and medication records are kept up to date and signed by parents. Written consent for medication and emergency consent has been obtained for all children. The childminder has a current first aid certificate and the first aid box is appropriately stocked and readily available.

Children are well nourished because they are provided with a good range of nutritious meals and snacks. They are encouraged to eat raw vegetables and fresh fruit and junk food is limited. Children's specific dietary needs and parental preferences are taken into account and a menu is available for parents to view. Children are unlikely to suffer stomach upset due to unsafe food because their food is stored in a separate fridge. The childminder has recently completed a food hygiene course and storage and re-heating procedures are well known. Children are offered or help themselves to drinks throughout the day depending on their age. Babies food and drink intake is recorded for the benefit of parents.

Children engage in a wide range of activities which contribute to their physical development. They enjoy outdoor play and have good opportunities to use climbing equipment and wheeled toys which develops their skills and confidence as they balance and climb. Children visit local parks and regularly attend a play session which focuses on physical exercise. They are encouraged to be active and are developing an understanding of the importance of exercise and the effects that it has on the body such as keeping it warm and getting their heart working.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. They are able to move freely around the house and garden because potential hazards have been minimised by the use of safety equipment. Resources are in good condition and age and stage appropriate. They are stored at a low level so children can freely and safely access them. Good organisation and the use of storage boxes enables children to easily identify toys and equipment. Activities which require adult supervision are kept on higher shelves to minimise the risk to children.

Children are closely supervised both indoors and outside and areas are safe and secure. Children learn the importance of staying safe because of the childminder's consistent approach to reinforcing rules and boundaries. They know that they need to tidy toys away when they have finished playing so they do not trip and to sit down when they have drinks because spillages cause accidents. Older children are involved in discussions about safety and they learn how to keep safe when they are out and about. Children confidently cross the road when walking to

school and are clear of the procedures they must follow. Positive steps are taken to protect children in the event of a fire. They regularly practise the emergency evacuation procedure and good records are kept of when fire drills have taken place.

Children's welfare is safeguarded through the childminder's secure understanding of her role and responsibilities in child protection. She has developed uncollected child and child protection policies which are shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident, happy and busy. They settle well in the home and have developed good relationships with the childminder and her family. Children are cared for in a homely environment and follow familiar daily routines. They move freely around the home and select from resources independently. The childminder has a strong knowledge of child development and provides activities which reflect the children's interests. She is familiar with the 'Birth to three' framework and has implemented some aspects into her planning. Children access a wide range of exciting, educational toys and equipment which contribute to their learning. They are cared for as individuals with different needs. Activities are age and stage appropriate and ensure that children are well challenged. Children frequently visit places of interest such as museums and parks. They socialise in group situations as they attend parent and toddler groups.

Children frequently experience playing with creative activities such as painting and model making with dough. They make cards for special occasions and are currently making Christmas decorations. They enjoy cooking activities and make and decorate cakes. Children are learning about colours, shapes, letters and numbers in everyday situations and by playing games. Interaction is excellent, the childminder joins in with the children's spontaneous play, shares ideas and encourages children to ask questions and problem solve. Children enjoy exploring and are confident learners. They play with the full range of resources and spend their time purposefully.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children receive individual care according to their needs as discussed with their parents. They 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 as they access a good range of books, puppets, puzzles and play-people which promote discussions about culture, gender and ability. Some books are in dual languages, therefore, children are helped to understand that there is more than one language. Children of all abilities play alongside one another and are well supported. They are encouraged to feel good about themselves and enjoy activities that will encourage them to reach their full potential. Activities are adapted to enable children to integrate.

Children show care and concern for each other and positive strategies are used for managing their behaviour. Children have clear guidelines and boundaries which help them understand

right and wrong. They play co-operatively together and are responsive to praise and encouragement. Positive behaviour is encouraged and children are thanked for their efforts. The childminder has developed a behaviour management policy which is shared with parents.

Parents regularly share information about their child's needs, interests and experiences to ensure continuity of care. Good communication exists on a daily basis and written information provided for parents is informative. They sign to say that they have received a copy of all policies and procedures. Children develop a sense of belonging because they are offered a settling in period and gradual visits. The childminder has a good working relationship with parents and builds trust and confidence to ensure that they are happy leaving children in her care. She has many cards and letters of thanks after children have left and has remained in contact with some.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a relaxed, homely, well-organised environment. Policies and procedures are effective in promoting the welfare, care and learning of the children. The childminder is not as familiar with the current complaints procedure and therefore may not record concerns in line with current practice. The needs of individual children are well met. They have a good balance of planned activities and free play. Children explore readily accessible toys and resources which are stimulating and contribute to their learning. Time is organised well to meet the individual needs of the varied age group.

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 consistently attended childcare courses on all aspects of childcare to enhance her practice and is currently completing an NVQ level two qualification. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that daily attendance records accurately reflected the arrival and departure times of minded children and to ensure that children had an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Attendance records are satisfactorily kept to ensure that children are accurately accounted for at all times. Resources which promote positive images of equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice have been added. Play people, books, puppets and puzzles reflect race, culture, gender and ability. Children, therefore, are gaining a knowledge and understanding of 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 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 knowledge and understanding of the current complaints procedure.

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