



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111265
Inspection date	28 February 2007
Inspector	Michele, Karen Beasley
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 satisfactory. 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 1999. She lives in a house with her husband and two children, one of whom attends school full time. Most areas of the property are used for childminding, including the enclosed rear garden. The childminder lives within close walking distance to local schools, pre-schools, shops and parks.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and currently cares for two children under eight years on a part-time basis. The childminder has an NVQ level 2 in Child Care and Education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from illness and the spread of infection by the effective procedures the childminder has in place however, their health is not fully protected, because the childminder does not request parents' permission for seeking emergency treatment. Younger children are able to sleep and rest according to their needs. Written information is obtained from parents regarding children's medical history, allergies and special dietary requirements ensuring their individual needs are fully met. The childminder records accidents and the administration of medication appropriately ensuring children remain healthy.

Parents supply their own child's meals however, the childminder has a flexible approach to providing a range of snacks, light meals and extra drinks. She works closely with parents to ensure the children's individual needs are being met and the parents wishes are being respected at all times.

Children develop physical control and improve their manipulative skills during a stimulating range of activities, both indoors and outdoors. Children are able to access the enclosed rear garden, where they are able to experience and enjoy a range of outdoor activities such as climbing, which contributes to their good health and physical development. Children are taken on walks to parks in the local area.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a safe and secure environment as the childminder has an understanding of the potential dangers and hazards within her home, enabling children to move freely and safely around the premises. For example, stair gates are used to prevent children from accessing areas unsupervised, a fire guard is in place and medicines are kept up high in a kitchen cupboard. Children feel safe and are settled due to the levels of support and supervision provided by the childminder. A fire evacuation plan is in place, however fire drills are not carried out frequently with the children and recorded, which compromises children's safety.

Children are protected as the childminder has an adequate understanding of child protection procedures. However, one of the agencies to contact in the event of a concern is not reflected in the childminder's written child protection policy. Children are able to access the resources freely, developing their independence fully. The clean toys and play materials are stored in the lounge and upstairs younger children's bedrooms. The childminder rotates the resources enabling children to make their own choices throughout the day.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a relaxed homely environment which makes them feel very secure. They relate extremely well to the childminder and socialise with other minded children and the

childminder's own children. The childminder interacts with the children extremely well which extends their learning, sustains their interests and supports them to develop new skills such as correctly sitting and getting down from a small chair. Children are appropriately challenged as the childminder provides toys which are suitable for their individual ages and stages of development such as large building blocks and treasure baskets; consequently, children enjoy what they are doing and have fun. Children respond well to the praise they are given in recognition of their achievements such as banging a wooden spoon onto Tupperware bowls to make music which raises their confidence and self esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder establishes a good rapport and working relationship with parents. Discussion before the child starts means that the childminder is able to support the child's transition from home to the childminder which enables children to settle quickly. The childminder obtains information from parents about their child's needs which contributes significantly to children's well being. The effective two way sharing of information on a daily basis ensures children are provided with continuity of care, appropriately supported and their individual needs met. Children develop confidence as they select and make their own choices of activities and toys they wish to play with. They become aware of the boundaries and expectations of the setting through the clear explanations and the consistent guidance they receive which is appropriate to their ages and stages of development.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has sufficient knowledge, experience and skills to meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She provides a friendly environment where children feel at home and at ease. Indoor play space is laid out to maximise children's play opportunities and parents are welcomed into the childminder's home and kept well informed of their child's progress. The childminder displays her registration certificate and most documentation is in place and maintained as required. The childminder is aware that information she holds about children is confidential, so is careful to keep children's records in individual files which are kept safe in a lockable filing cabinet.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to devise a written complaints procedure and emergency treatment consent forms for parents. The childminder has devised a written complaints procedure and emergency treatment forms. However, the emergency treatment forms have not been given to parents yet. Therefore, another recommendation has been raised as this compromises children's well being and safety.

The childminder was also asked to ensure toys and resources show positive images of disability and to increase the amount of toys and activities that children can access for themselves. The childminder has toys and resources that reflect the wider world such as books reflecting different

cultures, people and beliefs. The childminder treats the children as individuals which contributes significantly to children's well-being. Children develop confidence as they select and make their own choices of activities and toys they wish to play with from toy boxes in the lounge and upstairs in the designated bedrooms.

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 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 satisfactory. 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 emergency treatment consent forms are in place for each child and parents signatures are obtained
- ensure fire drills are carried out frequently and recorded
- update existing child protection procedure to include Ofsted's contact details.

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