



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	252044
Inspection date	24 January 2007
Inspector	Margaret Webster
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 1990. She occasionally works with an assistant. She lives with her partner in the Merridale area of Wolverhampton. The whole of the ground floor, the bathroom and one bedroom on the first floor of the property is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five part time and four child over five before and after school. She walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler groups. The family have one dog.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through established daily hygiene routines and simple explanations such as washing their hands after using the toilet and before eating. They have individual clean towels provided each day. Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through established daily hygiene routines and simple explanations such as washing their hands after using the toilet and before eating. This practice helps to prevent the spread of infection. Children's health is protected as the childminder does not take children who have an infectious illness, and she acts in their best interests if they become ill while in her care.

Children's physical development is well promoted as they are offered a range of play opportunities both indoors and out. They go on daily outings to toddler groups, the park, to the shops and the library. These activities help them develop control of their bodies and help promote their good health.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They are provided with healthy snacks throughout the day such as fresh fruit and toast. Although parents provide packed lunches for the children, the childminder demonstrates a good awareness of a healthy and nutritious diet for young children, and closely follows children's eating routines and habits. The children are encouraged to have regular refreshments of water from beakers placed near them to ensure they are sufficiently hydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well maintained home where risks of accidental injury have been minimised. Child friendly safety precautions are in place, such as safety gates and fire guards. This allows children to move around and play freely and safely. Children are kept safe on outings as the childminder supervises them carefully while they play. She ensures they are always within her sight and sound and teaches them about road safety, helping them become aware of keeping themselves safe.

Children use a wide range of safe, good quality, developmentally-appropriate toys and resources. These are arranged on the floor around the room and stored in low-level shelving to encourage independent access by all children. Broken toys are always discarded to prevent them becoming a risk to children and items with small parts are never accessible to young children to ensure they do not become a choking hazard.

Children's welfare is promoted and they are well protected. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has good knowledge and a clear understanding of her roles and responsibilities regarding child protection issues and procedures. However, she does not provide a policy for the parents information as to how any concerns would be dealt with if she had any concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and settle well in the childminder's home. They are engaged and interested in the activities on offer to them. They learn about the natural world by walking in the local community and visits to the local parks. They enjoy a wide range of activities that contribute to their creativity such as painting and collage work. They develop a healthy interest in books and enjoy stories being read to them by the childminder and regularly visiting the library. The children show independence and make choices about the activities they become involved in. The childminder uses some aspects of the 'Birth to Three Matters' framework to plan and provide activities that meet the needs of the younger children in her care..

The childminder knows the children well and provides them with lots of cuddles, attention and support which make them feel comfortable and relaxed. She constantly interacts with the children, asking them questions, listening to them and responding well, resulting in the children developing their language skills. The childminder and children have a good time together and play happily, promoting children's personal and social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are treated with equal concern and respect and are made to feel good about themselves. They have access to a range of resources that promote equality and reflect positive images of diversity including dolls, play people, books and puzzles. This helps children develop positive attitudes towards people from different cultures and backgrounds. Children's awareness and understanding of the wider world is extended by taking walks in the local community and attending local toddler groups.

Although there are no children currently attending the setting who have learning difficulties or disabilities the childminder is able to provide care which would include them on the life of the setting through discussing their need with the parents and working with any outside agencies involved with the care of the child.

Children benefit from lots of praise and encouragement which help develop their confidence and self esteem. They are aware of, and benefit from, boundaries and ground rules within the home. These ground rules and the appropriate and consistent behaviour management strategies used, according to the age and stage of development, help children learn right from wrong. The children are well behaved and play together harmoniously.

Children benefit from the childminder's positive and professional partnership with parents. Babies and children settle well and their individual needs are catered for appropriately because the childminder works closely with parents and gathers all relevant information from parents before the children are placed in her care. The use of two-way care diaries and daily chats ensures that the childminder shares important information about the children's needs and progress with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel comfortable and confident with the childminder. They are secure and confident in their play and benefit from the childminder's continued support and attention. Policies and procedures, which are shared with parents, are used effectively to promote children's welfare, care and learning. To ensure children's welfare and well-being is promoted and protected the childminder keeps all required records and documentation well maintained and stored securely and confidentially.

The childminder is a qualified nursery nurse and has 16 years experience of working as a childminder. She has a current first aid certificate and regularly attends short courses to keep up with the latest developments in child care. This experience and knowledge ensures that the children are cared for in a caring environment where they are able to develop and learn.

Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to develop the complaints procedures in line with current regulations and share this information with parents. She has introduced a folder that contains any complaints and this is available for the parents information.

Complaints since the last inspection

On the 28 June 2006 Ofsted received a concern relating to National Standards 1 (suitable person), 6 (safety) and 14 (documentation).

Ofsted investigated these concerns by carrying out an unannounced visit on the 03 July 2006 to the premises of the childminder. The visit showed that there had been a breach in national standards and Ofsted therefore issued 3 actions. One action under national standard 1 to "comply with conditions of registration which require the childminder's assistant to submit to vetting procedures by completing a Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Disclosure Application form and a CM2 Form". The childminder's partner has had checks carried out previously as a household member, he wishes to become an assistant so new checks are to be instigated.

An action under national standard 2 (organisation) was given to "obtain written consent from parents to allow, at times, an assistant to be left in sole charge of children". Finally Ofsted had not been informed of significant events, which lead to the concern being raised to us; therefore an action was given under national standard 14 to "inform Ofsted of any significant events no later than 14 days after the event".

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 provider remains qualified for registration.

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 a written policy that informs the parents how any child protection concerns will be dealt with.

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