



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	258803
Inspection date	22 January 2007
Inspector	Anne Georgina Phillips
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 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine and 10 in a house in the Wollaston area of Stourbridge, West Midlands. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden with play equipment and a playhouse for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children under five on a part-time basis, and one child over five during school holidays. The childminder walks or drives to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler and activity groups, and goes on outings to parks, play areas and places of interest. The family have pet goldfish and a hamster.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities that contribute to their good health. They have frequent opportunities to improve their physical skills when playing actively indoors and outside. For example, they visit local parks and play areas and go on outings to activity groups for more challenging play. Younger children make good progress with lots of opportunities to use space indoors to explore, crawl and develop their mobility skills. There are daily walks for children to enjoy fresh air and exercise. They enjoy playing in the good sized rear garden, which has a play house and play equipment, when the weather is fine. Activities are well paced so that children are able to rest and relax comfortably when they are tired.

Good daily routines and attention to the cleanliness of equipment ensures that children are well-protected from infection. The childminder's house, toys and equipment are very clean and well kept. She ensures that children are not minded when they are ill. Children learn about simple good hygiene practice when carefully washing their hands after using the toilet and before eating. They use good quality hand washing facilities and use individual towels to minimise cross-infection. Everyone takes off their shoes when they come into the house to keep floors and carpets clean so that these are hygienic for babies and small children to play on. Children are praised for hygienic practices such as covering their nose when they sneeze.

Children's individual care needs are well met because all the required information is obtained from parents when they start, including medical information and details of any allergies. Children are well taken care of if they have an accident. The childminder holds an up-to-date first aid certificate and maintains a well stocked first aid box. Accidents are recorded appropriately and details shared with parents but some incidents of possible significance have not always been recorded. This may compromise children's well-being.

Children are well nourished. They are provided with nutritious balanced meals and snacks appropriate to their needs because the childminder spends time getting to know each child's likes and dislikes and liaises with parents to encourage healthy options in their lunch boxes. She talks to parents when children start about any food intolerances. Meal times are sociable unhurried affairs so that children are relaxed and eat well. Food provided by parents is stored and reheated safely. Children are able to access drinks readily when they are thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are very safe and secure. They are cared for in a welcoming and child-friendly environment. The childminder's house is clean, well lit, warm and well ventilated. Space is organised effectively so that children can play freely, be active or play quietly. There is good space for babies and toddlers to crawl and develop their mobility skills. Children use safe and suitable toys and equipment that are stimulating and challenging to them. They quickly become interested and involved with the toys and resources that are presented accessibly to them on the floor of the lounge. The childminder carefully chooses these to match children's interests

and rotates them from a nearby playroom and store cupboard to ensure that children access a good variety. The children play well with what is available, concentrating for long periods showing that the toys and resources match their developmental needs well.

Children are very well supervised. The childminder is very observant of the children and vigilant about their safety. She continuously checks where they are and what they are doing and notices as soon as there is a risk. She is careful to select good quality toys and equipment checking that it is suitable for children's age and stage of development and is in good condition. She regularly reviews the safety of her home and records this in written risk assessments which demonstrates her high regard for children's safety.

Children are well protected from harm. There are well thought out procedures to protect children in case of emergency which are shared with parents. Children learn to keep themselves safe when taking part in regular fire drills. These are practised regularly and imaginative ways have been developed by the childminder to prompt the children to come to her so they can safely go out of the house together. The childminder has a secure understanding of her child protection responsibilities and has up-to-date guidance and contact details readily at hand for reference. She acts promptly if she has a concern but does not always make a written record to fully safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are very happy and settled. They come in happily and quickly settle to their chosen activity. They are glad to see one another and enjoy playing together. They form very warm relationships with one another and the childminder. They are confident knowing that they are valued as individuals because the childminder has a very good knowledge of their individual routines and ensures that these are respected. She is very sensitive to children's feelings and they enjoy the warm cuddles when being supported in their play so that they are very emotionally secure and develop high self-esteem. Children are confident to make decisions, explore and investigate. They concentrate for long periods on their activities, frequently talking about colours and numbers in their play. They concentrate and persevere well when building with the Duplo bricks or reading stories to themselves or one another. They are curious, noticing and commenting on things that they do and see such as the colour of the bowls. Babies quickly respond to puppets with big smiles wanting to hold and play with them. Children experience very sensitive and supportive care. They are interested and involved because activities match and support what they are learning closely. They enjoy a good balance of active and quiet play. They experience messy play activities such as hand and foot painting and working with play dough which develops their coordination and manipulative skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They demonstrate a real sense of belonging because the childminder respects their individual needs and they have lots of time to settle at their own pace. Their home routines are discussed with parents so that feeding and sleep

patterns are consistent. The childminder works with them to ensure that she meets any specific needs that children might have. For example, she works with them in supporting their development and plans enjoyable activities to develop specific skills, such as water play to promote interest in writing, drawing and making marks.

The childminder promotes a positive view of diversity by ensuring that children access resources and activities that develop their understanding of the wider community and equality. For example, people of many different backgrounds and abilities are reflected in the toys children play with and the books they read. The childminder uses opportunities such as children's favourite television programmes and videos to develop their understanding and thinking. Boys and girls access toys equally. Children are developing their independence when actively choosing their play activities.

Children behave very well. They have a good understanding of what is expected of them because they experience warm praise and encouragement from the childminder. For example, they are promptly praised for putting their hands to their mouths when they sneeze. Children work harmoniously with others. They really enjoy one another's company and show an interest in younger children touching them gently and talking to them happily when they wake from their sleep. They respond to sensitive guidance from the childminder who provides an excellent role model, noticing kind behaviour and giving prompt praise.

Close relationships with parents are quickly built up so that children's individual needs are known and met effectively. Parents are welcome and comfortable in the childminder's home so that there are good opportunities for verbal exchanges of information on a daily basis. They speak very highly of the care that their children receive. The childminder has developed good quality written policies and procedures that provide information to parents so that they are well informed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises herself and her environment very well. She mostly puts very positive measures in place to promote outcomes for children. She provides a warm and welcoming home where children feel secure and part of the family. She forms very good relationships with the children and parents so that children are very happy and contented in her care. She values and enjoys the company of the children and tends to their individual needs sensitively. She has a good understanding of their developmental needs and provides activities, resources and support, so they make good progress. She ensures that those in contact with children are suitable by joining with other childminders and vetted persons for outings and activities. She checks the identity of any visitors carefully and ensures that any workmen do not have unsupervised access to children when carrying out building work.

Documentation and children's records are generally very well kept. They are clear, contain most of the required information and are regularly updated. Policies and procedures are effectively used to promote positive outcomes for children and underpin all areas of childminding practice. All records are readily available for inspection and confidentially kept. There are good systems in place to ensure that ratios are met and the register is clear with details of children's arrival

and departure times recorded at the end of each day. However these are not completed as children arrive and depart potentially risking their well-being. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, two recommendations were made. The childminder was asked to obtain written consent for obtaining emergency treatment for children and for transporting them in the car. Good progress has been made in both respects. Each parent has now given their written permission for both of these thus ensuring that children's welfare and safety is now safeguarded.

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):

- ensure that children's attendance is recorded promptly
- ensure that all relevant accidents and incidents are recorded

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