

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	260693
Inspection date	26 March 2007
Inspector	Teresa Marie Taylor

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 2001. She lives with her family in the Radford district of Coventry. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is currently caring for eight children of whom four are under five. All except one child attend part-time. Children can be taken to, and collected from, local schools, nurseries and pre-school groups. The family has a pet bird.

The childminder is able to support children with learning difficulties.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

To ensure children's good health the childminder has routines in place and posters on being healthy which are discussed with the children. This enables them to understand why they should follow good hygiene practises. However, the childminder does not follow her procedures at all

times. For example, when nappy changing or when drinks containers are dropped and this leaves children open to the possibility of cross infection. The childminder has a complete first aid kit for both the house and another to take on outings. She holds a current first aid certificate which ensures she is able to respond appropriately to any accidents children may have either at home or when on outings.

Children are encouraged to use the garden at every opportunity for physical play. The childminder ensures the garden is secure and clean so that children are safe. Children are encouraged to walk each day providing them with physical activities even when the garden is not available due to the weather.

The childminder provides meals for those children who require them. Agreements with parents for the provision of meals, all allergies and food preferences are recorded ensuring children are provided with appropriate and nutritious meals that meet their individual needs. Drinks are always freely available and appropriate drinks containers are provided.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures her home is safe and welcoming and that children are provided with sufficient space to explore and play. They are encouraged to use all play areas and toys and equipment are checked regularly to make sure that children are safe and would come to no harm due to faulty equipment. Safety issues are discussed with the children ensuring they understand why there are basic rules in place regarding play and the reasons for tidying up.

Toys and equipment are well organised and appropriate storage ensures children can access all the toys and equipment safely. Outdoor play is always supervised to ensure children's safety. Children's understanding of general safety is promoted as the childminder has posters in the playroom depicting how to stay safe, at home, near water and when out and about. Children understand about fire safety as there are clear exit plans displayed and they regularly practise the fire drill.

Children are not allowed to answer the front door at any time and the reasons are discussed with them. This ensures they remain safe from strangers. Child protection information is shared with parents and the childminder is clear on recording concerns and sharing them with parents. However her child protection policy provides incorrect information regarding who to contact should she have a concern. This may delay essential intervention to protect children. Children are protected on outings as the childminder ensures the setting is safe and children wear wrist bands with her phone number on enabling her to be contacted immediately should a child stray or become lost.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a wide range of both indoor and outdoor activities to choose from and are free to choose their own activities. This enables children to make decisions, develop their self-esteem and learn to share and cooperate. Their independence is actively encouraged and their decisions valued. Children can safely access all of the available toys and equipment as there is appropriate storage. The reasons for tidying up are explained to the children so that they understand about preventing domestic accidents.

To extend children's social skills and knowledge base they are taken on many outings. All settings are checked for safety and expectations of behaviour are discussed. This enables children to understand the reasons for rules when out and increases their understanding of personal safety. The childminder has obtained written consent from parents for transport and outings. She shares her plans with parents ensuring they are aware of their children's location at all times.

The childminder regularly praises children and encourages them to question and explore. This encourages the children to settle quickly. Children are learning about the natural world as they grow their own flowers and vegetables in the garden. Their emotional wellbeing is fostered appropriately.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has experience of caring for children with learning disabilities and has undertaken training in this area. She has a good understanding of equal opportunities and ensures that all children and families are treated with equal concern and respect. Children have access to a wide range of toys, equipment and planned activities to support equal opportunities thereby increasing their opportunities to discuss and develop understanding of the wider world around them.

Children's behaviour is good because the childminder provides clear and consistent management whereby the children know what is expected of them. They are encouraged to share, display good manners and take responsibility for their actions. Children have been involved in drawing up the behaviour rules and these are displayed. This enables the children to develop appropriate strategies for conversing and playing together and gives them responsibility for their actions.

There are good relationships with parents which contribute significantly to children's wellbeing. Children are aware that the childminder will discuss all aspects of their day with their parents and this encourages children to develop responsibility for themselves and others. The childminder ensures that all information on children is readily available to parents and kept up-to-date. There is an extensive portfolio of policies and information available for parents ensuring they are fully aware of all aspects of the care provided for their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are protected because there are appropriate clearances in place for all adults in the household and the childminder ensures that all visitors are supervised and do not have access to the children. Children have the use of all of the ground floor and garden and are encouraged to make good use of the space, spread out activities and respect each other's personal space.

Children are happy and settled in this child-centred and calm environment. Toys and equipment are easily available to them both indoors and in the garden and they are encouraged to make their own decisions regarding play. Their independence is actively encouraged allowing them to develop self-esteem and ownership of their actions. The childminder continues to undertake training to improve her knowledge and provide greater opportunities for children.

The childminder's documentation is all up-to-date, well organised and kept confidentially. Parents are provided with a detailed daily discussion on how their child's day has been and all

verbal agreements with parents are acted upon. There is an extensive portfolio of policies and information for parents, with essential information, including how to make a complaint, clearly displayed. This provides consistency for the children and reassurance for the parents. The provision meets the needs of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was requested to make the garden safe. Children are now well protected when outside as the garden is fully fenced and secure.

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 positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection
- ensure the child protection procedures comply with the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

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