



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	260696
Inspection date	23 February 2007
Inspector	Kashma Patel
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 registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and two adult daughters in the residential area of Coventry. The whole of the maisonette flat is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have a pet dog and a cat.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for four children under five who all attend on part-time basis. The childminder transports and walks to local schools to take and collect children. She also runs a local toddler group and takes children on daily outings to the park and shops. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because they are learning about simple health and hygiene practices. They are reminded to wash their hands before food and after stroking the pets. Children commented that they washed their hands because of 'germs'. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate, which means that she can deal with accidents appropriately.

Children's physical skills are well supported as they enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They enjoy daily outings to soft play centres, childminding groups and taking the dog for walks to the park. There is a good range of equipment which promotes children's balance and coordination. They commented that they like to play on the climbing frame and in the ball pit in the garden.

Children are well nourished because the childminder works well with their parents who provide lunch for their children. The childminder ensures that parents provide healthy and nutritious food which is appropriate and promotes healthy eating. Children are provided with individual bottles which are filled with water so that they can access them independently when they get thirsty. They are learning that water is good for their health compared to fizzy drinks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a homely environment where they feel secure and part of the family. Appropriate safety equipment such as safety locks, smoke alarms and a fireguard are in place to minimise potential risks to children. They are also learning about fire safety through regular discussions. Good use is made of the available space, for example a train track was set up in the hallway and the kitchen area is used for messy play.

Children use a good range of safe and developmentally appropriate resources. There is a rota for toys which ensures that children are able to access a wide range of toys and equipment to promote choice and their independence. They were observed helping themselves to puzzles and cars from boxes on the floor. Children commented that they choose toys from a larger selection from the garage.

Children are well protected due to the childminder's good understanding of child protection procedures. She has a copy of the updated local authority guidelines to use as a reference. Policies are shared with parents to keep them informed of the childminder's responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a calm environment where children are happy and confident. They receive good levels of support and praise which helps build their confidence. Children's art work is displayed and they look forward to taking it home at the end of the week. Toys and

equipment are easily accessible, promoting choice and independence. Children were observed playing co-operatively with a train set and a child commented that his train was an 'express'.

Children benefit from a wide range of activities outside of the home. They go for walks to the local park to feed the birds and to the farm where they learn about baby animals. Regular visits to a softplay centre ensures children have opportunities to develop their physical skills and socialise with their peers. Children are developing good concepts of letters and numbers as they confidently complete twelve piece puzzles and build towers with number bricks. The childminder has not completed training on the 'Birth to three matters' framework and children would benefit if she extended her knowledge on the care for young children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing a good understanding of the wider society because they have access to a wide range of toys and resources such as books, puzzles and play people. They have also celebrated cultural festivals like Diwali by making cards and lanterns. The childminder has a good practical awareness of how to include and appropriately care for children with learning difficulties and /or disabilities.

Children are learning how to manage their own behaviour because the childminder has a calm and consistent approach. They are aware of 'rules' and what the consequences are for negative behaviour, for example, time to reflect in the 'thinking corner'. Children are rewarded with mini stampers for playing and sharing toys and look forward to receiving them. Their efforts and achievements are shared with parents to promote their self-esteem.

Children's welfare is well promoted through good partnerships with parents. Their routines are discussed with parents to ensure their needs are fully met. Letters were observed from parents stating how happy and settled their children were with the childminder. Children's welfare is promoted because the childminder is aware of recent regulations and has a complaints log in place which is accessible to parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder ensures that the needs and welfare of the children in her care is her first priority. She ensures that all adults who come into regular contact with the children are suitably vetted. The childminder makes good use of space, time and resources to ensure that children are well cared for and enjoy a stimulating day with her.

Children's welfare is well promoted because the childminder keeps detailed records on the children in her care. Parents are provided with good written and verbal information on their children's progress. All significant information is recorded, demonstrating to parents that the children are being provided with care which will promote their well-being and support their development.

Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that accident recordings included all appropriate details and to maintain a written agreement with all parents that sets out the expectations of both parties as to the care of the child, activities provided and business arrangements. Children's welfare is safeguarded because accidents are recorded in detail and shared with parents. The childminder has appropriate consent from parents for all outings and business arrangements which means children's welfare is promoted.

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):

- improve outcomes for children under three by using an approach in line with 'Birth to three matters'.

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