



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	259749
Inspection date	01 March 2007
Inspector	Susan Rogers
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, one child aged 14 and one adult child in Walsall West Midlands. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family have a dog, rabbit and fish.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children who attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She takes children to the local carer and toddler group and library.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children have exceptional opportunities to enjoy food that has a very wide nutritional value. The childminder has completed in-depth research in promoting children's healthy eating. Consequently, their well-being is very well protected as they enjoy a wide variety of interesting and nutritious food. They are well motivated to sample a variety of different foods that reflect different cultures and tastes. The childminder is committed to providing children with attractively presented food that develops their palate and encourages healthy eating.

Children are encouraged to take an active interest in the food they eat through preparing their own foods by chopping vegetables or spreading spreads on bread. The childminder is proactive in her commitment towards promoting children's positive nutritional habits. For example, they enjoy a wide selection of raw vegetables and fruit for their mid-morning snack. They are well hydrated as they always have easy access to drinks that include water and sugar free squash.

Children are very well protected if they are ill whilst in the childminder's care as there is an effective sick child policy which encourages parents to care for the child at home if they are suffering from a contagious illness. Children have exceptional protection if there are concerns regarding their health. The childminder has a current paediatric first aid qualification and knows how to react if there is an emergency. The outstanding hygiene routines protect children against illness and infection. For example, children wash hands before eating and after using the toilet and have individual hand towels. Children's understanding is thoroughly well promoted as they listen attentively to comprehensive explanations that promote positive personal cleanliness.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop their small physical movements as they have a wide variety of construction and craft activities available. For example, younger children skilfully thread laces through buttons. They have exceptional opportunities to develop their larger physical movements since they frequently play in the garden, visit local parks and toddler groups. The childminder ensures that they are protected in all weather conditions by ensuring they wear appropriate protective clothing and have sun protection cream applied when the weather is hot.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's self-esteem is well promoted as they feel relaxed and comfortable in a warm and welcoming setting. For example, there are a variety of posters and books displayed that stimulate children's interest. Children are encouraged to engage in play activities since there are a wide variety of toys and equipment that are attractively presented. The premises are continually adapted to the needs of the children. Their learning is encouraged as floor space is made readily available for them to enjoy a make-believe picnic and jigsaw activities. Their development is encouraged as there is a vast assortment of toys that are suited to their age and ability. For example, there is imaginary play equipment, construction and craft activities.

Children's development is encouraged as they have access to different areas of the home where they can enjoy a variety of activities. This includes the conservatory, living and dining areas where specific activities are presented that encourage children to freely choose their play activities. They are well protected if there are any concerns regarding their care as the childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding issues and has discussed her obligations with parents.

Children's well-being is protected as good safety provisions are in place. For example, they are well protected as all low-level glass is safe. Children's safety is maintained since they are constantly supervised whilst in the childminder's care; she consistently supports their play and ensures that she remains with the children at all times.

Children's understanding of road safety is encouraged as the childminder offers explanations as they walk to and from school and during outings to local parks. They are learning about the dangers of fire since they are provided with appropriate explanations and practise regular evacuation routines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children's development is actively encouraged as a consequence of the exceptionally high-quality play activities. The childminder successfully implements several aspects of the 'Birth-to-three matters' framework within the children's activities. For example, children draw images of their own face using a mirror and 'people crayons'.

Children flourish as their different starting points are well understood by the childminder before their placement commences. For example, the childminder completes a thorough settling in process and includes parents in all of their child's assessments. Consequently, this ensures that children's needs are very well met as the childminder adjusts the activities to correspond with their abilities and areas of need.

Children learn quickly as the childminder works consistently with them to support their understanding and ensures activities develop their language skills. Children's understanding of their activities are well promoted since the childminder introduces a daily theme and ensures all activities link with this topic.

Children's conversational skills are very well-developed as a consequence of the childminder's skilled questioning techniques that promote children's understanding, encourages them to think and satisfies their curiosity. They have significant learning opportunities as a result of the dedication and commitment presented by the childminder. For example, she is meticulous in her support of children's play and ensures that children are always involved in a variety of meaningful play opportunities. Children flourish as a result of the vast array of activities that are available. For example, they play with 'persona dolls' which encourages their confidence and develops their communication skills. Children are exceptionally confident and readily contribute to their development by offering suggestions and using their imagination that ensures their play is rewarding.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children have exceptional opportunities to learn about different cultures and the needs of others. For example, children's high levels of awareness are actively promoted as a consequence of the vast array of toys, books and equipment that promote images of the wider world. Their greater awareness of a wider society is further expanded since children have excellent opportunities to celebrate different festivals and celebrations.

Children with learning difficulties and or disabilities have excellent care as the childminder has an exceptional understanding of their different needs and appreciates all relevant legislation. Children who have individual needs are well protected since the childminder has wide experience in working with a variety of different support agencies.

Children behave exceptionally well. They are considerate of others feelings and unreservedly help each other. For example, they pass each other toys and play equipment and demonstrate their caring skills by helping each other. Therefore, they demonstrate maturity and consideration for others. They unquestionably take responsibility for their play environment by clearing away equipment and toys following all activities. Their positive behaviour is well promoted by the childminder's forward thinking strategies. Children's behaviour is purposefully promoted as the childminder provides children with frequent praise and ensures that children's energies are directed into meaningful play opportunities.

Parents are extremely well-informed regarding the progress of their child. They are brought up-to-date through a combination of daily diaries, assessments and regular conversations between them and the childminder. Their continuity of care is thoroughly protected as there is an extensive settling in period that allows children to stay with their parents for short periods of time until they increase in confidence. Consequently, children's development is well protected as the childminder is aware of their levels of development when their placement commences.

The childminder demonstrates high professionalism by providing meaningful support for both parents and children which ensures children's welfare is well protected. Children are encouraged to continue with their learning in their home environment as a consequence of the childminder's in-depth discussions with parents regarding all aspects of the child's care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's development is encouraged as a result of the childminder extending her professional development. For example, children's needs are thoroughly met as the childminder has accessed much additional training that promotes her understanding and enables her to meet children's needs.

Children's development is encouraged as a result of the effective organisation. For example, outings are arranged to local parks that encourage children to learn about their environment. Children are well supervised as a consequence of the childminder's effective organisational

skills. Their learning is therefore encouraged as there are significant periods where their play is directly supported by the childminder.

Children's welfare is compromised as not all household members are vetted. However they are well protected as there are effective contingency plans to ensure that they always cared for by a vetted person. Children enjoy sound protection as a consequence of effective policies and documentation. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. Children are well protected as prior permission from their parents is obtained that enables the childminder to seek emergency medical advice and treatment.

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):

- make sure that all adults that have contact with children are vetted.

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