



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223801
Inspection date	15 March 2007
Inspector	Olwen Pulker

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 satisfactory. 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 January 1992. She lives in a detached house on a modern estate in a village in Shropshire with her husband and adult child. The house is near to local schools, shops and parks. All of the downstairs rooms and one bedroom upstairs are used for childminding purposes. There is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding eight children at various times of the week. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local carer and toddler group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and suitably maintained home, where they learn the importance of personal hygiene through appropriately established routines. They wash their hands using anti-bacterial soap preparations at mealtimes and after toileting; they dry their hands on paper towels to reduce the potential risks of cross-infection. The childminder has attended first aid training to ensure she is aware of the correct procedures to follow to promote children's health in the event of an accident.

The childminder provides a healthy lunch, if requested to do so by the parents. She records information about children's special dietary needs, preferences, allergies or food intolerances to ensure their dietary needs are met effectively and in line with parents' wishes. She provides snacks, as required and children are provided with regular drinks to ensure they are not thirsty.

Children take part in a range of physical activities, which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They enjoy playing in the garden on various equipment such as wheeled toys to help them develop control of their bodies. They regularly go for walks to the local shops or to the park where older children use the large climbing equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children use the kitchen dining area, which is organised suitably for their play. They relax on the settee and use small tables for creative activities. Indoor play space is limited, so they regularly make use of the more spacious garden for active play. The range of toys for indoor play is most appropriate for the younger aged children attending. There is a selection of board games and craft activities to interest older children.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure indoor and outdoor environment. Their risk of accidental injury is lessened because the childminder has taken steps to minimise hazards. For example, the premises are secure, cleaning materials are stored out of reach and the stairs are inaccessible to young children. Children learn to take care when negotiating the garden steps and to cross roads safely when out and about. Although the childminder has considered an emergency evacuation plan she has not shared this with the older children and consequently they are not informed of how to keep themselves in the event of fire.

Children are well protected from possible abuse or neglect. The childminder has a secure understanding of child protection issues; both the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children guidelines are available with details of whom to contact should she have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and secure in the childminder's care. Young children approach her readily and are given plenty of reassurance as they enjoy cuddles. The childminder interacts positively with the children in their daily routines and play giving consistent support; she aids early speech development through constant dialogue with the children. They begin to recognise different colours and learn to count as they fill a plastic bottle with wooden beads. They enjoy looking at books and the childminder fosters their interest by visiting the local library where they borrow books and attend story time. Children also have an opportunity to extend their social skills as they regularly attend the local carer and toddler group. Children have some opportunities to develop their independence as they choose between an assortment of toys and books, which are easily accessible. However, the range of resources, on the whole, are more suited to the youngest children attending and do not always provide challenge for the older children. Activities are tailored to suit the ages of the children present; older children are provided with materials such as card and wool to make necklaces and spiders.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated and respected as individuals. Children with disabilities or learning difficulties are cared for effectively. The childminder provides relevant activities, following the advice of outside agencies and parents to promote their welfare and development.

Children have opportunities to learn about their local community as they visit amenities, such as the shops and the park, in the area. However opportunities to learn about how other people live are missed and the range of activities and resources available to promote children's understanding of society are limited.

Children behave well and respond positively to clear behaviour strategies, which are shared and understood by parents. The childminder understands that all children are different and talks to parents about how best to care for them. Children benefit from good relationships between their parents and the childminder, enabling their individual needs to be met and details about their home lives and time spent with the childminder to be shared.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled at the childminder's house because she is suitably organised and they are familiar with the daily routine. She has recently developed some written policies to underpin her care practices, which are available for parents to see.

The documentation required for the efficient and safe management of the setting is in place. However, the register of children's attendance is not consistently maintained and therefore children's welfare and safety are not fully promoted.

Overall, the needs of the range of children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop her knowledge of child protection procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's recommendations and also to obtain and record essential information from parents to enable children to be cared for effectively. As a result of attending child protection awareness training the childminder has gained a secure awareness of the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child. Information gained from parents about their children's medical details, allergies and dietary requirements and emergency contact details are now all fully recorded. Consequently, children's safety and well-being are protected.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- practise the emergency evacuation procedures regularly to ensure children can be evacuated safely and older children develop an understanding of safety procedures.
- develop the range of activities and resources to raise the children's awareness of diversity
- ensure the register consistently reflects children's times of attendance.

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