



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	224026
Inspection date	19 May 2005
Inspector	Carol Johnson

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 has been registered since 1986. She lives with her husband in the Walsgrave area of the City. The whole of the ground floor, together with the main bedroom and bathroom on the first floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

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

The childminder attends a local carer and toddler group on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because the childminder takes suitable steps to prevent the spread of infection e.g. food preparation surfaces are cleaned before use and parents are made aware of the childminder's policy with regards to sickness. Children learn about good hygiene practices through following everyday routines such as washing hands before meals and after the toilet. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and her first aid box is well stocked. However, her written procedures with regards to accident recording are currently insufficient.

Children have regular access to a range of drinks and children that attend after school are offered a snack. Parents provide food for mealtimes and the childminder ensures that this is stored appropriately and that children with allergies or special dietary requirements are not at risk e.g. children are appropriately supervised at mealtimes and she talks to parents about children's dietary needs.

Children enjoy regular physical activity e.g. outings to the park, visits to local community groups and they have access to a range of outdoor toys within the garden. Children benefit from flexible daily routines which allow them to have a quiet time or sleep that reflects their individual requirements and parental wishes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where they feel secure and confident. They are able to access a general range of clean and safe resources both inside the home and out in the garden e.g. construction, jigsaws, cars and imaginary play items. The childminder carries out daily visual checks on all equipment to ensure that they are safe and suitable for the children in her care.

Children are generally cared for in a safe environment as suitable safety precautions are in place e.g. a fireguard, stair gate and socket covers but a glass-topped coffee table in the lounge currently presents a potential hazard. Children are beginning to learn about their own safety through discussions and explanation e.g. they talk about safety near water when feeding the ducks. However, children are unaware of emergency procedures in the event of a fire as these have not been shared or practised. The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the child protection issues and procedures, which are necessary to protect the welfare of the children and she is aware of her responsibilities to protecting the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled. They are provided with a satisfactory range of activities and experiences that reflect their needs and interests. The childminder provides learning and play opportunities through everyday experiences such as visits to the shops and by allowing children freedom to initiate and choose their own activities e.g. craft, watching television or playing in the garden. Children are given regular opportunities to attend local community groups and mix with other children and adults, which helps to increase their confidence and social skills. The childminder interacts well with children and listens to what they have to say and as a result they are happy to communicate their needs and share experiences. Children are helped to develop self-esteem and confidence through the use of praise and the childminder shows interest in children's efforts and achievements, both at her home and at school. The childminder acknowledges good behaviour and ensures that is highlighted during daily discussions with parents.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are given equal access to a general range of resources and activities that promote diversity and raise an awareness of the wider world. The childminder helps children to feel valued and respected by fostering positive attitudes towards others, responding to and providing for individual needs and encouraging non-stereotypical play.

Children benefit from the childminder's use of a range of positive and appropriate methods for managing behaviour, including praise, distraction and explanation. They are made aware of rules and boundaries and why they exist and as a result they behave well. The childminder ensures children receive consistency through daily verbal exchanges with parents where strategies can be discussed and agreed. She has a friendly and informal approach to her relationship with parents and she is able to draw on her considerable experience of caring for children to offer helpful advice and support when requested e.g. issues related to toilet training.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is experienced and ensures ratios are met to allow children to receive adequate individual attention and to offer flexibility of care to suit parent's needs. The childminder currently cares for children of varying ages and abilities and activities are suitably supervised and planned to ensure that children are cared for safely and appropriately. Space within her home is used to provide children with different areas for a range of experiences including craft, floor play, quiet activities and physical play. Children are at ease and settled in her care and as a result are able to approach the childminder for comfort and they are confident to express their needs and explore their environment. Parents receive a warm welcome and have daily opportunities to exchange information about their child's care and routines. Documentation is generally sufficient and stored appropriately. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has increased her resources to include toys and equipment that show positive images of people with varying needs and from a variety of cultures and backgrounds. She encourages non-stereotypical play and uses everyday experiences and activities to help children appreciate and value others' similarities and differences.

She was also asked to improve her systems for recording children's medical information and she now ensures that any information regarding existing medical conditions is shared and all necessary documentation is in place and accurately maintained.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- ensure a signed record is kept of all accidents to children
- ensure the glass-topped coffee table is made safe or inaccessible to children
- ensure the emergency escape plan is practised.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk