

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	255002
Inspection date	05 July 2007
Inspector	Jennifer Turner
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 1997. She lives with her husband and two children aged 10 and 13 years. They live in a house in Great Barr within walking distance of local shops, parks and schools. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding and one bedroom and bathroom on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children under 8 years at any one time and is currently caring for ten children all of whom attend part-time. She works with an assistant and runs a local playgroup. She has a childcare qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and hygiene are promoted through consistent daily routines and good practices. For example, children learn about the need to wash their hands because the childminder talks

to them about germs. She escorts the children to the first floor bathroom and ensures that the children wash their hands with soap. The childminder uses anti-bacterial spray on the kitchen work surfaces, toys, equipment and when she takes the children out to visit the farm or park they use anti-bacterial hand wash. This ensures that any risks to children health is minimised.

Sick children are cared for appropriately. Parents are called to collect their child if needed. The childminder is aware of ensuring other children are not put at risk of the spread of infection and excludes children with infectious illnesses for an appropriate length of time. All the required documentation and formats are in place for administering medication or treating children involved in accidents. However, the information related to accidents involving children are not sufficiently detailed to ensure parents are fully informed. Consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment has been obtained from parents to ensure the well-being of children is not compromised.

Children enjoy healthy snacks of fresh fruit. Specific dietary requirements are recorded to ensure children are not offered inappropriate food. Drinks are available at all times and children ask for, or help themselves to these. Young children are offered frequent drinks. This ensures children's fluid levels are maintained according to their needs. Snack and meal times are sociable occasions where children sit together.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children arrive into a welcoming environment where toys are easily accessible and facilities available for them to rest and sleep according to their needs. Older children can safely access toilet facilities, thus helping to promote their independence. Children's safety is promoted because they use equipment and resources that are safe and suitable for their age and ability. The childminder enhances her range of toys, when needed, by using the local play group where she works and she records when she has cleaned and checks the toys.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder has a good awareness of potential hazards in and outside the home. For example, she has fitted an extendable gate to the open plan kitchen and entrance to the lounge to prevent children accessing front door or the stairs unsupervised. She ensures that cleaning fluids are stored inaccessibly to children, low-level kitchen cupboards are locked and cables and flexes are stored so children cannot pull on them. Children learn to keep themselves safe. They know the correct way to go down on the slide and about how to use the road safely.

Children's welfare is promoted. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and of her responsibilities in this area. She has completed relevant training on child protection and best practice. The latest guidelines are readily available for reference and she keeps relevant telephone numbers accessible.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and happy in the childminder's care. They experience a good range of activities which includes, regular visits to playgroups, craft, role play, dressing up and construction. The children enjoy a good relationship with the childminder who supports them in their play and promotes their independence. For example, she encourages them to do things for themselves, make their own decisions, when appropriate, and try new activities. Children

like playing ball games and sliding down on the slide. The childminder constantly praises children for their achievements. This promotes their confidence and self-esteem.

Children develop their imagination through inventing their own games with available resources. For example, they play with role play kitchen and pretend they were cooking meals for the childminder. Children enjoy hitting balloons and watch them floating in the air and they laughed as the balloons landed on their heads. All children play well together, knowing how to share and take turns. Children are inquisitive. They ask questions such as, 'What is that for?' as they point to the inspectors laptop.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are included and valued by the childminder. They learn about each other's differences because the childminder talks to them about situations as they occur. Children have many opportunities to learn about their own and other cultures as they play with ethnic cooking utensils such as chapatti pans and Chinese dishes. The childminder ensures that she is aware of and addresses children's individual needs through discussions with parents. Children learn about respecting each other and frequently say please, thank you and excuse me, appropriately. The childminder welcomes children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities into her home and works closely with parents and other agencies such as, the local early years respite care worker to support children.

Children's behaviour is good. They are aware of the unwritten ground rules of the childminder's home and require minimal reminding of these. The childminder informs children of strategies that apply during their play and obtains their agreement to these. For example, children must share and take turns. She has a calm approach to any unacceptable behaviour and addresses any potential issues appropriately. This further positively influences children's behaviour. They learn right from wrong because the childminder explains the consequences of their actions on others.

Partnership with parents and carers is good. A good exchange of information between parents and the childminder helps to ensure appropriate care is given to children. For example, names and addresses of contacts for parents are kept, children's likes, dislikes and allergies are all recorded. Parents are kept verbally fully informed about their child's daily routines and activities. Policies and procedures devised by the childminder and includes the complaints procedures, are displayed so that they are available for parents at all times. However, records of complaints relating to the National Standards are not always maintained.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and relaxed in the homely environment. Good use is made of space to provide children with opportunities to move around the home selecting what they want to play with. Children feel confident enough to initiate and extend their play with what is available. The childminder maintains all required training such as first aid. She also holds a child care qualification and has attended other relevant short courses such as craft and promoting positive behaviour. This helps in providing an environment that supports children's welfare, learning, and play.

All mandatory records are in place and the childminder has devised policies and procedures relating to her service. This underpins the smooth running of her provision. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that she continues to meet the required adult:child ratio. She now works with an assistant to ensure she is able to meet the required ratio. She has also made good progress in ensuring written consent is obtained from parents before she administers medication as well as for her to seek medical advise or treatment. She has improved her hygiene practices with regards to nappy changing and sleeping arrangements by ensuring that she washes her hands after nappy changing. Children are provided with the own bedding which is changed regularly and they wash their hands before meals. The safety of children has been addressed, because all hazardous substances have been made inaccessible to children and they now practice the emergency escape plan, to ensure they are fully aware.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been one complaint made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. Concern was raised during an inspection visit on 08 December 2006 that the childminder was exceeding the number of children permitted on the certificate of registration. The Childminder was cautioned and gave an undertaking to comply with all conditions of registration. Ofsted can confirm the Registered Person remains qualified for registration.

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

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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 information relating to accidents involving children contain sufficient details
- keep a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken.

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