

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 209392
Inspection date 11 April 2007
Inspector Janet Ashcroft

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 2001. She lives with her husband in Lichfield, Staffordshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and the bathroom and small front bedroom upstairs. There is a secure rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time; she presently has seven children on roll who attend on a part-time basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends local pre-school groups with minded children. She offers a collection and delivery service to local schools and nurseries.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning about appropriate hygiene routines through the childminder's consistent practice, for example, they routinely hand wash before eating and after using the toilet. They are encouraged and supported in developing skills of self-reliance with regard to personal

hygiene through the childminder's proactive approach; she has equipment ready, for example, potties and hand wipes, to support their developing needs.

Children's health is generally promoted through the childminder's policies, procedures and records. However, their welfare is not fully safeguarded as written parental permission has not been obtained to seek emergency medical advice or treatment; in addition, some items in the first aid box are beyond their usable date.

The childminder makes full use of the garden and the children are given regular opportunities to play outdoors, where they are able to freely access a good range of toys and equipment to practise a variety of physical skills. Daily walks to school, and regular trips to the local park, offer additional opportunities for exercise and fresh air.

Children's nutritional needs are appropriately accommodated, with fruit and vegetables served on a daily basis; drinks are freely available throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to move independently around the setting, which is clean and very well maintained. Their sense of belonging is fostered by items of personal equipment, for example, cups, crockery and cutlery.

Children benefit from access to an extensive range of toys and equipment, which is kept in a clean and safe condition and which promotes all areas of their development. The childminder encourages and supports the children in selecting their own toys, developing their skills of independence.

The childminder has an appropriate level of awareness of possible risks to children's safety and has taken steps to ensure that the setting is safe. The children are actively learning how to keep themselves safe, for example, they regularly practise road crossing drills on the daily walks to school.

Children's protection from abuse and neglect is promoted through the childminder's good understanding of signs and symptoms and of reporting procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are able to engage in a broad and balanced range of activities, which helps them make progress in all areas of development. For example, music and movement is a particular favourite and the childminder frequently supports the children as they move around the house playing a variety of instruments and marching to the rhythm of their music. The childminder is skilful in using everyday routines as learning opportunities, these include sorting and matching laundry, encouraging the children to count as they descend the stairs together and creating different shaped toast for them to identify at snack time.

Children's language and social skills are promoted through the frequent questions asked of them by the childminder and their confidence and self-esteem is enhanced as she listens carefully to their responses. The childminder is always ready with cuddles and kisses and has developed a close relationship with the children, fostering their emotional well-being as she

encourages them to feel special and important to her. She has some knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework, however, she has yet to implement it within her practice.

Children benefit from regular learning and play opportunities outside the home, where they are given opportunities to explore and investigate and to relate to others. For example, regular visits to the shops and to local pre-school groups.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for as individuals with their particular needs acknowledged and accommodated. Through discussion, the childminder demonstrated a proactive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities. Children are able to experience a modest range of resources and activities to develop their awareness of the wider world and to promote their understanding of others. For example, musical instruments, books and dolls.

Children benefit from consistency of care, which has developed through the sound partnership with parents. Information is exchanged daily and parents are always warmly welcomed into the setting.

The children behave well and are actively learning about socially acceptable behaviour through the childminder's gentle and positive reminders. Their self-esteem is effectively promoted by the childminder and their pride in their achievements is enhanced as they are praised frequently for effort and success.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are able to explore and investigate as a result of the appropriate use of available space; this has been planned by the childminder to enable the children to participate in a variety of activities. Their sense of security is fostered through effective adult support and a familiar daily routine.

Children benefit from the childminder's sound organisational skills; most relevant paperwork is available and is stored securely.

The provision 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 obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children. The childminder no longer administers medication to children, however, should she be required to administer it in the future, she has all relevant paperwork available and is aware of the required procedure.

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):

- ensure that written parental permission is obtained for seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure that the contents of the first aid box are checked frequently and replaced as necessary
- further develop knowledge and understanding of the needs of children under three, for example, through the use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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