

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 209396
Inspection date 10 April 2007
Inspector Julie Mary Preston

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 1987. She lives with her husband and two adult children in the Baswich area of Stafford. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently caring for two children on a full and part time basis including before and after school care. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home, where procedures implemented by the childminder help children learn the importance of staying healthy. Children develop an understanding of good hygiene practices through daily routine activities undertaken, for example, hand washing practices. Individual bed linen, individual wipes to clean faces and regular toy cleaning help to minimise the risk of cross-infection. Procedures are identified and records in place to

appropriately cater for illness, existing injuries, accidents and administration of medication. Parents currently provide all meal and snack requirements for children with the childminder ensuring these are hygienically stored, prepared and served to children who attend by making herself aware of good food hygiene practices. To supplement this she provides children with a range of drinks. This ensures children are not hungry or thirsty.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their good health. Regular physical activities help children develop physical skills and gain control of their bodies, for example, undertaking walks within the local environment, walking to and from school and use of the rear garden. Children are given opportunities to rest or sleep in line with parental wishes and individual sleep patterns.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a mostly safe environment where the childminder mainly identifies and minimises possible risks. However, children's safety is compromised due to security of the premises not being maintained and potential hazards present in the rear garden. The childminder has implemented some safety procedures that aim to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, by providing fire safety equipment, undertaking a visual risk assessment and by having nominated persons identified for collecting children. She also extends children's understanding of how they can keep themselves safe, for example, she discusses road safety when walking in the local environment and makes older children aware not to go too far in front when walking. Procedures for outings help children extend their experiences through trips and outings undertaken, for example, children enjoy travelling by bus as many of them usually travel by car.

Children use a range of safe, good quality toys that are appropriate for their ages and stages of development. These are maintained and provided for children at their level. Toys are organised in a range of storage boxes in the garage with a selection provided for children to play with each day whilst in the childminder's care. The childminder has some understanding of child protection procedures and the signs of abuse to be vigilant for. However, she is not aware of recent changes or contact details to be used if she has any concerns. This means potential delays in reporting incidents that occur.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settled and enjoy their time in the childminder's care. For example, children enjoy art and craft activities undertaken; and walks within the local environment. They are confident and make themselves at home, interacting well with the childminder and each other. Children gain confidence to express their needs and wants with the childminder and good relationships have developed. The childminder takes time to listen and make conversation with each child, expanding on their individual interests through discussion and questioning. Children play happily with the range of toys and equipment available, for example, babies enjoy playing with the rattles and older children enjoy playing with the cars and mat.

The childminder develops children's language and social skills through constant conversation, questions and individual attention. For example, reading stories and having discussions about things within the stories. The childminder is developing her practice through starting to

implement some aspects of the 'Birth to three matters' framework, for example, she offers babies lots of cuddles and provides them with appropriate play opportunities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has an understanding of equal opportunity and special needs. This is reflected within her resources, activities and the opportunities she provides. For example, undertaking art and craft activities relating to specific festivals, reading stories and having discussion to extend topics children are learning about at school. There are currently no children who attend with special needs, however, the childminder is proactive in ensuring that appropriate action would be taken and care provided for a child within her setting.

Children are well behaved, they take turns, share and play well together. The childminder works in partnership with parents to manage a range of children's behaviour and implements her written behaviour management policy. Children are made aware of what is expected through discussion and explanation. Praise and encouragement is offered for good behaviour. Children benefit from an effective partnership with parents. Discussions are held with parents when they initially join the setting to make them aware of the childminder's policies and procedures. Settling in arrangements and a trial period are then identified to gradually introduce the child into their new environment. Daily discussions are then undertaken about their child's care and achievements with parents on a daily basis as they drop off and collect their children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has relevant experience, meets the required levels of training and her household remain suitable. Children are comfortable and make themselves at home within the setting. The environment provided both inside and outside the home is organised to allow children to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Verbal and written policies and procedures are used to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Information is shared daily with parents to keep them well informed about their child's activities and well-being. This contributes to continuity of care. All required documentation is in place and accurately maintained. Overall 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 agreed to record accidents, ensure relevant consents are sought, provide a range of resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and ensure hazardous substances are inaccessible to children. The childminder has taken appropriate steps to address these issues and now provides accident records and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Relevant consents are now sought and hazardous substances are inaccessible to children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004 that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 children's safety is addressed by maintaining security of the premises and restricting access to the greenhouse
- gain awareness of who to contact if child protection concerns are identified and ensure up-to-date information on procedures to follow is available

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