

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY270661
Inspection date	05 June 2007
Inspector	Christine Holmes
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 2003. She lives with her husband and four children aged 19, 16, 14 and four years in Tamworth, Staffordshire. The whole of the property may be used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have two cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding five children under eight years on a mostly part-time basis. She also cares for two children over eight years on an occasional basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a number of opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise. They go to the swimming baths on a weekly basis and go for regular walks to the local park. Whilst space is limited in the childminder's garden and the area is not fully child friendly, children have easy access to the area and they are able to take part in activities such as riding small bicycles and playing with

bats and balls. This helps to develop their physical skills and have a positive attitude towards exercise. The childminder has all the required arrangements in place to ensure appropriate action is taken to care for children who become ill or sustain injury.

The childminder works in partnership with parents to meet children's individual dietary needs. Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Whilst the childminder provides some healthy options for children's snacks a number of less healthy snacks are also offered and children are not encouraged to develop their awareness of healthy and less healthy options. This does not fully support children to make healthy choices to support their good health.

Children are beginning to learn the importance of good personal hygiene. For example, they learn to wash their hands after using the toilet and to put items such as tissues in the bin after use. This helps to develop children's independence and help to minimise cross-infection. However, the childminder does not provide children with individual hand towels to dry their hands. This does not ensure that cross-contamination is fully minimised.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have sufficient space to rest and play. They are cared for in the downstairs area of the house where they can move independently between the lounge, kitchen and dining area. They have access to a mostly adequate range of toys some of which are stored in low level drawers in the lounge area which provides children with some opportunities to make decisions about what they want to play with. However, most toys are stored upstairs which means that children do not always have access to a full range of play resources. This limits their opportunities for following their own interest in play.

Children are beginning to learn how they can help to keep themselves safe because the childminder gives them gentle reminders which they respond to well. For example, they stop climbing in the lounge when the childminder reminds them that they may fall and hurt themselves. In general the childminder takes adequate steps to minimise potential hazards which mostly helps reduces the risk of accidental injury to children. For example, she provides a high level of supervision especially when children are playing in the garden. However, some hazards, such as cleaning materials and aerosols, are not kept out of the reach of children.

The childminder has sufficient understanding of what procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child's welfare. She also knows who to contact if an allegation of abuse is alleged to have taken place whilst a child is in her care. This helps to ensure children's welfare is supported.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They form close and affectionate relationships with her and the other children in her care. The childminder is attentive to children and joins in with their activities, encouraging language and purposeful play. This contributes to children's self-esteem and well-being. The childminder works in partnership with parents to support children's development in areas such as toilet training. Children take part in a varied range of activities such as making 'rain makers' and constructing models from small bricks. In general children are kept occupied and interested. They sit for long periods of time absorbed in drawing pictures and building with bricks. The childminder encourages young children to

take an interest and develop an understanding of the sound that letters make through using flash cards and drawing their attention to print on their toys. The childminder sometimes encourages the children to count and take an interest in numbers. Children are beginning to show an interest in numbers asking visitors what number is on their house and telling them the number which is on their house. The childminder encourages an interest in the wider world and living things through visits to the local Nature Park and the craft centre. This helps children to make progress in their development. However, children's free play is limited as most toys are not kept within their reach. This limits their learning and development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder works well in partnerships with parents and carers to meet children's individual needs. She takes positive steps to find out parents views and wishes which she values and follows. Parents are kept informed about their children's activities progress and changes to the childminder's services, such as a new complaints procedure. Written responses in parental questionnaires demonstrate parents are very happy with the care their children receive. Parents state they feel their children are happy in the childminder's care.

Children's self-esteem and confidence is supported very well by the childminder because she treats all children in her care with equal concern and she encourages and values children's individual efforts. Children enjoy regular praise which encourages them to show pride in their achievements. Children particularly benefit from the very positive support they receive to share, take turns, develop consideration for others and express their own feelings. As a result, children are developing very positive relationships with each other and they are learning how to behave well.

Although the childminder is not currently caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities she demonstrates a clear commitment to inclusive practice and would work in partnership with parents and other agencies to meet children's individual needs. However, she does not provide sufficient resources or activities to promote children's positive awareness of the diversity of lifestyle, cultures and ability.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall children's needs are met. The childminder's caring manner ensures children are settled and happy in her care. She has a sound knowledge of the National Standards for childminding and in general she takes sufficient steps to ensure they are implemented to support children's health and safety, welfare and learning. In general she keeps herself adequately up to date with any changes such as the new complaints procedures. Whilst the childminder is booked onto a course to update her first aid certificate she has allowed her certificate to expire.

The childminder uses her time well to support children's needs, but the organisation of resources does not ensure children have the independence to choose from a sufficient range of resources to follow their own interest or have access to all types of learning.

The childminder keeps all the required records and documentation which she shares with parents to ensure the efficient and safe management of her service.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to obtain written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment. She has now obtained this which helps to ensure she acts appropriately to care for children who become ill or sustain injury.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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):

- take further steps to keep hazardous items out of the reach of children
- increase children's opportunities to develop a positive awareness of diversity and improve their access to the full range of toys and resources
- further promote children good health by improving hand drying facilities and promoting children awareness of healthy eating options
- obtain a current first aid certificate.

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