

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY345252
Inspection date	05 July 2007
Inspector	Karen Eunice Millerchip

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 2007. She lives with her 15 year old child in Coventry. The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom are used for minding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children and currently minds three children on a full and part-time basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn about the importance of hygiene and personal care. They are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and before snacks and meals. Their health is safeguarded because the childminder has a current first aid certificate, a fully stocked first aid box and satisfactory systems to record accidents and medication given to children.

Children are provided with healthy snacks and meals during the day in line with their preferences. Children are also introduced to different foods that encourage healthy eating, such as, strawberries and bananas. They have access to drinks at all times to ensure they do not become thirsty. Children are kept healthy as the childminder has a food hygiene certificate and implements the learning from this course.

Children take part in activities, which contributes to their health. They attend toddler groups with the childminder where they take part in physical activities and use bikes, scooters and wheeled toys to help them develop control and co-ordination. They have daily exercise when they go for walks to local shops and pre-school sessions.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a home where most risks have been identified and addressed. However, children are able to access hazards within the garden, which potentially compromises their safety. They move around the home independently, using the lounge and dining area for play activities and confidently choose from toys of good quality.

Children learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, they use reins and wrist bands when out walking, learn about road safety and know they have to stay close to the childminder. Children are protected in the event of a fire as all appropriate fire safety equipment is in place and they are introduced to the procedures for an emergency escape.

Children's safety is well met through the childminder's procedures and documentation. For example, she holds a current health and safety certificate and all documentation to take children out and about is up to date. Children are suitably protected from risk of harm or abuse by the childminder's knowledge of local procedures to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well in the childminder's home, they are happy and content in the caring environment. They have a good relationship with the childminder and are at ease to go to her for comfort, reassurance and support. They are well nurtured because the childminder appropriately responds to and anticipates their needs, for example, she recognises when they are tired or hungry. Children socialise with other children during visits to or from other local childminders. They benefit from learning and play opportunities in the home and through regular visits to community groups and outings.

Children become independent as they choose from a sound range of toys, which are easily accessed in the lounge and are changed frequently to add variety. Children use toys available to develop their emerging skills. For example, one child present was delighted in showing off her ability to correctly complete a shape jigsaw. Children's emerging language is developing and they learn new words during their play through ongoing conversations with the childminder, for example, a younger child pointed to the childminder's eyes and confidently repeated the word whilst touching her own eyes. All children benefit from ongoing praise and support.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are respected and valued, and receive individual care according to their needs. They have equal access to a general range of equipment. However, there are insufficient resources or play opportunities to develop children's understanding of diversity in society. They receive praise, respond to requests from the childminder and behave well. Children have clear guidelines and boundaries and they know what the childminder's expectations are for their behaviour.

Children's information is exchanged with parents both verbally and written through a daily diary. Children's progress during the day is recorded. Health issues and any milestones, such as learning a new word, are recorded and the diary is used by parents to provide two way communication, which helps to identify and meet children's changing needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's home. Children play in the rooms downstairs and make good use of the space available to them. They make choices and freely access toys and resources, which promotes their confidence and self-esteem. Information regularly exchanged with parents helps to make sure that their views are respected and they know about their children's daily routine and progress.

Children benefit from the childminder's organisational skills with regard to routines, which include a sound variety of activities to contribute to their learning and social skills. Children's detailed records contribute to good care and the written policies and procedures ensure provision for children's individual needs. Confidentiality is maintained and children's personal information is kept secure. She demonstrates a strong commitment to improving her practice through attendance at a range of relevant training courses, such as, first aid, food hygiene and health and safety. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action 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):

- increase resources to promote children's awareness of different people in society
- take reasonable steps to ensure that hazards to children in the garden, are minimised.

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