

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY341433
Inspection date	06 June 2007
Inspector	Elaine Poulton
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 2006. She lives with husband, adult family and her eight-year-old child in a property in Bloxwich, Walsall. There are shops, parks and a library all within walking distance. All of the ground floor of property is used for childminding. Children have access to a rear garden for outdoor activities.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding two children, a four-year-old and a 12 month old on a part-time basis.

The family has two dogs and a rabbit.

The childminder takes and collects children from local schools.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are gaining an awareness of suitable hygiene practices and know why they wash their hands. Children are aware that they "Can not see the germs on our hands but they can make us poorly".

Children who are ill are requested to remain at home so that the infection is not passed on to the other children. The childminder ensures that all equipment such as the nappy changing mat is cleaned after each use. She has knowledge of notifiable and communicable diseases and understands the procedure for reporting these. Consent is obtained for seeking any emergency medical advice or treatment of a child as necessary. She holds a current first aid certificate. All of these measures promote children's good health.

Suitable arrangements are in place to ensure pets do not pose a health risk to the children.

The childminder works in partnership with parents to provide the children with a balanced diet. Children are provided with drinks and their likes and dislikes and special dietary needs are met. Generally they eat healthily and are beginning to learn about the importance of eating a good diet, with sugary foods such as lollipops and ice-cream being limited. Home cooked meals are prepared for the children and include a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables. Children enjoy a range of healthy foods such as beans on wholemeal toast and their favourite fruit is banana. This means that the childminder takes positive steps to ensure children's good health is promoted.

Children have opportunities to rest and to be active during their time with the childminder. They enjoy daily outdoor play on the swing and with the push along toys. This contributes to children's positive attitude towards physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and warm environment. The ground floor space is used creatively to give children free access to a variety of play opportunities. Children are confident to move around in the environment which has a range of safety and security precautions. For example, the front and rear doors are locked, kitchen cupboards have safety locks, a safety gate is used to restrict access to the stairs, socket covers are in place and a fire blanket is available. Children are supervised at all times indoors and outdoors. However, not all potential hazards have been minimised. For example, there are many ornaments at an accessible height to children in the house and the rear outdoor play area has items such as slabs and wooden decking blocks stacked along the fence. This compromises children's safety in the setting.

Children independently select activities from a range of toys which are easily accessible and stored in plastic boxes. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their use. For example, she removes small resources or those that are inappropriate for the age range.

There are a range of satisfactory safety procedures in place. For example, the childminder maintains an accurate record of accidents giving a detailed account of the circumstances and

treatment given to the child. The record is signed by the child's parents and remains confidential. There is a clear emergency evacuation plan. This supports children's safety in the setting.

The childminder has an appropriate range of documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded. She has an awareness of where to seek support if she did have a concern about a child in her care. Although the policy is unclear about the 'Local Safeguarding Children Board' procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a homely environment where much of the play is initiated by themselves. Children are developing their imagination and independence by selecting their own play activities. For example, they busy themselves with brightly coloured small world toys and games. The childminder recognises that each child is individual and allows them to make decisions about their play. However, whilst activities are enjoyable and fun they are not always linked effectively to plan children's next steps in their development or learning.

Younger children are lively and enjoy investigation and exploring the environment. They 'grasp' and 'grab' at brightly coloured toys within their reach. Older children enjoy imaginative play in the damp sand with vessels and containers. They offer to make 'a cup of tea or coffee' and scoop sand into the cup and pat it down firmly before they share it with others. Children talk about colours, numbers, letters and shapes. They have access to play dough and painting materials but prefer to play outdoors on the swing in the fresh air. The childminder provides help and support for older children's learning. For example, together they look at their favourite television programmes and she answers any questions they may have. They experience a positive warm relationship with the childminder and this in turn increases their sense of trust and well-being.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the wider world by playing with toys that reflect diversity such as puzzles, books and dolls. They explore different festivals, events and celebrations such as Diwali and Chinese New Year. The childminder has a good understanding of equal opportunities and it is her policy that all children are valued, respected and treated with equal concern.

The childminder has experience and a good practical awareness of how to include and appropriately care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Consequently, along with parental agreement, children's individual needs are recognised and met sensitively.

Children are learning to understand right from wrong and are clear with boundaries and routines within the childminder's home. As a result children know what is expected of them. They sit at the table when eating and drinking and do this without prompting and automatically remove their footwear upon entering the house. She uses distraction tactics with younger children and praise with older children. This means that children's good behaviour is praised consistently which in turn promotes good behaviour.

Children benefit from the positive relationship between parents and the childminder. Children's individual needs are met as the childminder has a good system in place to share information

with parents through regular discussions. This promotes the children's welfare and ensures their individuality is acknowledged and their daily routine needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that the regulator is informed of any significant events and that all vetting procedures are undertaken. This helps to keep children safe in the setting.

Children play in a clean and welcoming environment where they benefit from routines which meet their individual needs. They have a variety of play opportunities both inside and outside the home.

The childminder ensures that her time is spent providing support for the children and ensuring that they are happy and settled. Routines enable children to have quiet and active periods and make choices about their play.

All records are stored confidentially and available for inspection as required. There is a complaint procedure should a parent have a concern. Children's records are accurately maintained and written consent is in place for children to be transported in a vehicle. The certificate of registration is displayed and an accurate record is maintained of children's attendance. The childminder has good awareness of the records to be kept and the importance of these.

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 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):

- identify and minimise hazards to children within the home and in particular with regard to the outdoor play area
- develop awareness of the relevant Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance and procedures on child protection and allegations made against a provider
- use an appropriate development framework such as 'Birth to three matters' to help plan children's next steps in learning.

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