



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	125234
Inspection date	12 July 2005
Inspector	Tracy Larnach

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 good. 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 1993. She lives with her husband, adult son and 12 year old son. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and a bedroom upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children under eight years; of these, not more than 3 may be under 5 years, and of these, not more than 1 may be under 1 year at any one time. She is currently minding three children under five and two school age children. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect

children when necessary.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language. She has a National Vocational Qualification, level three in early years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy activities which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They participate in daily outside play, enjoying activities that help them to gain control of their bodies. For example they make their way through an obstacle course and play on the wheeled toys. They go for weekly walks to the library and visits to the local beaches. They have opportunities to be active inside, for example bouncing on a 'play' mattress and crawling through a tunnel. The children recognise when they are tired and need a rest and are able to cuddle up with the childminder for a story or lay down for a sleep.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they are beginning to learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They discuss personal hygiene while playing, talking about tooth brushing, using tissues and their bedtime routines at home. Children know to wash their hands before eating. However hand washing after using the toilet has not become a fully established routine. Therefore the children are not learning that they must wash their hands after using the toilet to prevent the spread of germs.

Children eat nutritious meals helping them to develop healthy eating habits from a young age. They are served 'family style' so they are learning that eating is a pleasant and social occasion. They are introduced to new textures and flavours by tasting different fruits and they enjoy using a juicer to make fruit and vegetable drinks. Parents wishes and dietary requirements are respected and details are recorded on the children's record forms. Children may ask for drinks at any time, however they did not request a drink and over two hours elapsed before they were offered one. As a result they may become dehydrated, especially in the warmer weather.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder identifies and minimises risks for children in her home, for example sockets are covered, dangerous substances are inaccessible and toys are appropriate for the ages and stages of the children cared for. This means that children are able to play safely and move freely around the home. The childminder gives a high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and has clear procedures for outings to ensure children's safety outside the home. The

childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare and has all the required procedures and documents in place. She holds a current first aid certificate which means she can give appropriate care if there is an accident. She has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows what action to take if she has concerns about a child in her care. This ensures that she acts in the best interest of the children and supports their welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settle well in the childminder's home. They are able to select from a range of toys that are attractively stored in plastic containers. They become engrossed and busy as they build with bricks. The childminder uses skilful questioning to relate the children's play to their personal experiences. The children's imagination is stimulated as they build on their experiences and are given props to enhance their play further. Their concentration is developed as they play for an extended period of time. The childminder allows the children to save their 'special constructions' to show their parents promoting their self-esteem. The children play well together and relate positively to the childminder who encourages and praises them. As a result they become confident in experimenting, problem solving and developing their ideas in play.

The younger children enjoy the activities which the childminder modifies to promote their learning. However she has not yet used a framework such as Birth to three matters to support their learning. Children enjoy singing their favourite rhymes. They laugh with delight when they fall from the childminder's stomach who lays down to become 'Humpty Dumpty's Wall.' Children listen intently and respond well to stories, their language skills are extended and a love of books and interest in reading is encouraged by the childminder's clear love of books. This is supported by weekly visits to the library. Children are developing mathematical thinking when the childminder asks them to compare and uses concepts such as 'underneath.' The children enjoy being creative when they are able to make marks with large crayons, finger-paint and explore different textures.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. For example, the children talk about the life boat rescuing people in the sea. They discuss their experiences of hospitals and doctors and revisit these experiences through play. They compare their own differences and similarities, read stories about different people and look at posters on the wall depicting people from different cultures. Children learn about their local community as they visit places such as the library and local beaches. Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder has experience caring for children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language and is

happy to include all children in the service she provides. Children develop positive attitudes towards others because the childminder is a positive role model and encourages them to be kind to each other. Children show care and concern for each other and play together harmoniously, they behave very well. Children make themselves at home and have time to relax as well as be active.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The childminder knows the children well and uses observations to plan for and meet their individual needs. All the required documentation is in place for safe and effective management of the setting. This is regularly shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection there were two recommendations made. The childminder was asked to; obtain an up to date first aid qualification and use occasional observations to plan for the next steps in children's learning. The childminder has obtained a first aid qualification enabling her to treat minor accidents and know when to seek outside help to ensure children get the appropriate treatment. The childminder regularly observes the children. She uses her observations and a theme to plan the day. This assists in her supporting the children's interests and needs.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?
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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):

- involve children in consistent routines regarding hand washing to minimise the risk of cross infection
- continue to develop the range of activities for the younger children, for example by using 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 *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk