



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY219811
Inspection date	18 July 2005
Inspector	Lynn Morris

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 5 and 7 years in Coventry, West Midlands. The whole ground floor, 2 bedrooms and bathroom facilities on the first floor are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and is currently minding 3 children aged under 5 for full days and 1 child over 5 after school on Monday and Tuesday. The childminder walks to local schools to collect children. The family has a dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children take part in activities, which contribute to their health. They use a swing, slide, see-saw and trampoline in the garden at the childminder's home, which helps them develop co-ordination and control. They go to a large park to use the climbing equipment and run around to improve their physical skills.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they are beginning to learn about the importance of hygiene and personal care. They learn to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet.

Younger children bring a packed lunch, older children staying for tea have a range of healthy meals provided by the childminder. Fresh fruit is available and the childminder takes account of children's allergies and parents wishes when offering meals. Children's health is considered, they can easily access their drinking cups, which are constantly filled and are not given 'fizzy' drinks at the childminder's home.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home where their needs are given priority. Risks to children have been identified and minimised and daily checks ensure that children move around the home safely and freely. The childminder gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe. Children's needs have been carefully considered when crossing roads to local schools and measures are in place which help children feel secure. Children have completed activities about road safety to reassure them after a traumatic experience, when they witnessed a severe road accident during their journey to school. Additional safeguards, for example the glass summerhouse is fenced off and an alarm is fitted to the main door into the premises, helps keep children safe.

Children choose from good quality toys, which meet British safety standards and the childminder makes daily checks of equipment. Children practise very regular fire drills and written procedures for emergency escape from the premises are displayed. The childminder has all required documentation and some additional written policies and procedures, which all help to protect and safeguard children's welfare. For example, the childminder has a current first aid certificate. She has a secure knowledge of child protection procedures and has recently completed a child protection element during another course.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well and are very happy in the childminder's home. They make good relationships with the childminder. Children go out to the park regularly and develop physical skills using the wide range of toys and equipment available in the garden. They use the covered decking area as an extension of their play area. They try new activities, such as painting, sand and water play to develop their fine motor skills. They can see their paintings and pictures displayed on the wall in the decking area. Children have started to keep a record book, which has samples of the different activities they have tried.

Children become independent as they choose from a good range of toys. They select toys for themselves, can get their own cups when they want a drink and are able to make themselves understood when they need the childminder's support. Children use a range of toys in a learning environment, which are planned to meet their level of development. For example, a 1-year-old had activities for small periods of time to meet his concentration level. Children's development and learning needs are met by the weekly plan of activities, which is displayed for parents. Children's emerging language is developing well. They learn new words by repetition during their play and they are beginning to use speech for communication.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children choose from a range of toys, which help children develop a positive view of differences and they make different things associated with festival celebrations. For example, they made Japanese flags and Easter baskets.

Children are respected and valued. They respond positively to praise and happily seek cuddles and reassurance from the childminder. They respond to requests from the childminder, they know the 'house rules' and behave well. Praise, support and prompt attention from the childminder promotes this good behaviour. Children's progress is communicated to parents verbally and for younger children a daily diary keeps parents informed of important daily events.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's home. They play in rooms downstairs and make good use of the additional covered decking space in the garden. They make choices of play and use accessible toys and resources developing confidence and independence. Information regularly exchanged with parents helps to make sure that care meets their wishes and they know about their children's progress.

Records kept contribute to appropriate care and provision for children's welfare. Confidentiality is maintained and children's personal information is kept secure. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the children she cares for.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to complete a first aid course for infants and young children and to increase resources available to reflect equal opportunities.

The childminder has completed a first aid course for infants and young children, which is now valid until 2007. This contributes to children staying safe.

The childminder has added a number of books, toys and resources, which promote cultural diversity and reflect positive images for all children. This contributes to children making a positive contribution.

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 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 that when children are playing upstairs that they cannot access the stairs.

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