



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	251844
Inspection date	28 July 2005
Inspector	Patricia Dawes

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 outstanding. 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 2001. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 15 and 12 years. They live in a house on the outskirts of Wolverhampton, close to local shops and schools. All areas of the property downstairs and the upstairs bathroom are to be used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is a member of the Accredited Childminding Network. She is registered to care for three children at any one time and is currently minding three children on a full and part- time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children gain an excellent understanding of good hygiene practices and personal care through consistent, well-informed daily routines. Children understand from a very early age, why they must wash their hands after using the toilet, messy play activities and before eating meals.

Children benefit from very healthy and nutritional snacks which are imaginatively prepared and presented to encourage children to eat a variety of different foods. They are able to help themselves to drinks throughout the day and enjoy a range of fresh fruit, vegetables and finger foods. Children delight in mealtimes because time is given for them to savour their food and further enhance their developing skills and social interaction.

Focused activities and exceptional communication between the childminder and children promotes their understanding of staying healthy. Children benefit from the daily use of an extensive range of equipment to promote their physical development. They have a good awareness of how their bodies work, and know when they need a drink or a rest.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a warm, very safe and welcoming environment where their individual needs are met well and risks are substantially minimised due to the vigilance of the childminder and inclusive and systematic risk assessments. High priority is given to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and safety issues are regularly discussed and explained to and practiced with the children such as the green cross code and fire evacuation procedures.

All toys and equipment are thoroughly checked to ensure they meet safety standards. Toys are made easily accessible and at the children's level so they can independently select resources. The childminder has an excellent understanding of creating a balance between encouraging children's freedom and setting limits to maintain their safety.

Children are very well protected by the childminder who has a clear and focussed understanding of all aspects of child protection. Comprehensive and effective policies and procedures are in place to promote children's welfare. The childminder is very keen to undertake any relevant training regarding health and safety to enhance practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children settle into the environment exceptionally well and are happy, confident and eager to play and learn. They are involved in a stimulating range of activities which are interesting and fun and develop their curiosity, creativity and imagination. Children join in all areas of play enthusiastically because the childminder plans and organises a stimulating and diverse range of activities. Children are able to make choices about their play and there is a very good balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities.

Children benefit extremely well from the support of the childminder who encourages them to build their confidence and self-esteem by trying new activities. The childminder uses the Birth to three matters framework to provide challenge and recognise young children's efforts and achievements. She has a very good understanding of how children learn and uses curriculum planning to meet children's individual needs. Activities are adapted to ensure that all children can participate; as a result children are very confident to try new experiences.

All areas of children's development are significantly enhanced by the quality of the childminder's interactions. Babies and young children receive lots of cuddles and close contact to provide reassurance and increase their sense of well being. Children are listened to and their communication skills are well promoted as the childminder positively responds to their gestures, sounds and questions.

Children's extensive use of creative materials enable them to develop a wealth of imaginative, exploratory and sensory experiences such as planting seeds, watching caterpillars grow into butterflies and tasting fruits from other countries. Imaginatively planned activities enable children to have an excellent knowledge and understanding of the local community.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are made thoroughly welcome and the childminder has a high regard for each child's individual needs to ensure their time is spent purposefully. Each child is valued and included in every aspect of the daily routine and activities are meaningful, stimulating and fun. Children have choices in their play which ensures that they are interested in what they do.

Children's behaviour is excellent due to the clear boundaries and positive role model set by the childminder. Children understand the difference between right and wrong and this is continually re-enforced through daily routines and practices such as caring for each other and tidying away toys after use.

Children have numerous opportunities to learn about themselves and others in the wider community. Imaginatively planned activities and visits to local places of interest help children gain a very good understanding of their environment such as visits to the local library for story time or the local park on a 'bug hunt'. Varied and focused topics further enhance and foster children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural

development well such as children practising the use of everyday words in another language.

Children make significant progress in all areas of their development due to the excellent partnership with parents that enhances all areas of the children's development and learning. The childminder has very good systems in place for sharing information with parents to meet their child's individual needs. Parents are given ideas to help with their child's learning at home and the childminder values their contributions to improve practice.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from a very effectively organised routine and varied programme of activities. They are well supported, happy, comfortable and settled in a warm caring environment where their individual needs are met extremely well. The children spend their time purposefully and all activities are planned to maximise play, learning and development opportunities.

Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place that have a positive impact on children's safety and well-being. Documentation is regularly reviewed, updated and shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service.

Children benefit from the care of a childminder who is highly motivated and keen to increase her knowledge of good practice. Excellent planning and use of daily diaries to record children's progress enable them to make very good progress in all areas of their development. The childminder continually evaluates her practice and is highly committed to improvement and development through regular and ongoing training. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous care inspection the childminder has taken steps to ensure her home has effective safety measures in place with regard to the outdoor play equipment, children's access to the bathroom and the shelving where resources are stored. As a result the risk of injury to children has been significantly reduced. The childminder has also updated her records to include written parental consent to administer medication. As a result the care and welfare of children, their well being and safety are now considerably improved.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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