

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 255009
Inspection date 30 January 2008
Inspector Elaine Margaret Hayward

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 1997. She lives in Smethwick with her child age 14. Areas of the ground floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding, with access to the bathroom upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five who attend part-time and four children over five who attend before and after school. She walks to local schools and nurseries to take and collect children. She makes use of local facilities such as book and toy libraries, parks, woods and shops, and attends local toddler groups.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties/and or disabilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a clean and homely environment where they learn the importance of good hygiene through well-planned daily routines and by learning from example. Children learn that it is important to wash their hands such as after toileting and before eating.

The childminder takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection with clear exclusion periods. If children become ill in her care, she acts in their best interests by comforting them and contacting parents. Both accident and medication needs are appropriately recorded and shared with parents.

Children's health and well-being are soundly promoted as they benefit from keeping active. They enjoy the fresh air each day as they walk to and from the nearby school and nursery. Children enjoy fun activities as they visit local parks and open spaces where they can play games and have space to run around.

Children are encouraged to enjoy food and understand why some foods are more healthy than others such as when they look for bananas in a shop. They talk about foods as they help cook, and experiment with different tastes as, for example, they examine and help prepare fruits such as lychees. The childminder provides an appropriate range of drinks, including juice, milk and water. However, children's understanding of the importance of having regular drinks and maintaining good hydration levels may potentially be compromised as drinks are not always readily to hand.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming, safe and child-friendly environment. They can freely choose what they want to play with from a wide range of good quality resources which are clean, safe and age-appropriate. High priority is given to safety so that children can move around safely, freely and independently. Risks are clearly identified with written risk assessments in place, and which, for example, include clear fire safety procedures.

Children are protected and clearly learn about safety as they frequently practise emergency evacuation procedures. They learn about keeping a good distance from swings when out in the park, about road safety rules, and to tidy away in the house to prevent trip hazards. Young children clearly learn that cookers can get hot as a very young child points to the toy cooker with a pan on the top and goes 'Ooh, hot' and recoils her outstretched hand.

Children's well-being and safety is well-protected by the childminder who has robust understanding regarding child protection. She knows the indicators of abuse and the appropriate actions to take.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder. They are happy, confident and content. The childminder and children form close relationships with each other. The childminder gains good

information about children's likes, dislikes and routines. She builds on this and provides a wide range of activities to promote children's development and learning, and a good balance of active and rest times. Children love the freedom to initiate the activities of their own choosing, with a good range of toys and resources within their reach. They love to collect leaves and create pictures. They enjoy trips on the buses and visits to libraries, parks and shops. They enjoy attending toddler groups where they can relate to others and are able to extend their social, physical and learning skills with other children and their childminders.

Children benefit from the childminder's experience, attitude and enthusiasm. Young children benefit from the childminder's ongoing praise and attention as she gets down on the floor with them, building a tower with wooden blocks. Lots of 'oohs, aarghs', smiles, laughter and warm, meaningful interaction can be observed as the blocks are knocked down and rebuilt. The childminder and children can be heard breaking into song together and tapping out the beat. The childminder extends their development and learning as she naturally encourages them to count and match colours.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into the childminder's home. They are treated with equal concern and are respected as individuals. There are plenty of opportunities for children to be valued, cuddled and comforted, and for their individual needs and personalities to be recognised and affirmed. Children learn about their community and the wider world as they enjoy a wide range of resources and activities such as dressing up and celebrating festivals, and as they go out on visits around the area. They enjoy signing to each other, promoting their understanding of disability. The childminder demonstrates sensitivity, caring for children with learning difficulties/and or disabilities, working closely with parents to meet their individual needs.

Children feel good about themselves, responding to the childminder's ongoing praise, support and encouragement. They behave well as they learn to understand and respect the childminder's clear house rules which are shared with parents. Children tidy away and understand the importance of being polite and saying 'please' and 'thank you'.

A close, informal relationship with parents contributes to children's well-being and helps parents understand how their children are cared for. Parents receive good information about the childminder's aims and practice through a clearly presented portfolio. They are kept informed of what their children have been doing through daily exchanges of information, where parent's views are respected and acknowledged. Parents speak very highly of the childminder and the care she provides for their children. They talk of the 'stimulating and secure environment', describing her as 'approachable, understanding and patient', providing 'immeasurable input into their (children's) development'. This good partnership and daily exchanges of information ensure continuity between home and setting, enabling children to settle quickly.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder ensures that the needs and welfare of the children in her care is her first priority by the effective way she organises her home, time and daily routine. As a result, children feel totally at home and at ease within the child-friendly environment.

The childminder demonstrates good awareness of requirements and responsibilities. She maintains and regularly reviews very clear documentation which is shared with parents to support the good quality of childminding offered. Children benefit from her commitment to obtaining qualifications and keeping updated with current practice in order to enhance the care, development and welfare of the children who attend. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to improve the system for recording children's attendance and update her first aid certificate. The childminder has made good progress to improve children's safety and well-being. Children's attendance is clearly recorded in individual diaries, and, promptly following the last inspection, the childminder attended an appropriate first aid course which included training in first aid for babies and young children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 good. 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 regular drinks are made readily available to children.

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