

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223762
Inspection date	26 September 2007
Inspector	Kathryn Mary Harding

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 1988. She lives with her husband and adult son, in Wem, Shropshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an 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 years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has goldfish as pets.

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 are cared for in a well-maintained environment, where they are beginning to learn the importance of personal hygiene through some appropriately established routines. They are

encouraged to wash their hands before having a snack and after playing in the garden. The childminder has completed a first aid course and has some documentation with regard to accidents. However, the medication records are not in line with requirements and the childminder does not have written permission to apply non-prescription medications such as sun cream, so children's good health is not always fully promoted.

Children are encouraged to eat some healthy and nutritious snacks such as fresh fruit. However, the snack of a chocolate biscuit offered in the morning contradicts the promotion of healthy eating. They are offered regular drinks such as sugar free juice and water so that they do not become thirsty. They are able to rest and sleep according to their individual needs.

The childminder encourages outdoor play and lots of physical exercise such as playing with the bats and balls. The children go for daily walks to the fields and to the park. Indoors there is a range of activities such as play dough and threading to help develop their small scale skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment which is warm and where there is adequate space for them to play. Children's art work is displayed in the kitchen making it more welcoming and inviting to children and parents. In order to help keep children safe the childminder visually checks all the rooms prior to them arriving. Safety precautions such as socket covers and a fire guard are in place. However, the lock on the knife drawer has broken so this is a potential hazard. Outside the children can access a large outdoor area which is all enclosed. However, there is a mirror in the garden which is accessible, so children's safety is not fully promoted.

Children independently select activities from a range of good quality toys and resources, which meet safety standards and are regularly checked. They are encouraged to keep themselves safe as the childminder talks through situations with them and they remind each other about what not to do.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection matters and knows the procedure to follow if she has a concern, so children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, well settled and have good relationships with the childminder who is sensitive and caring towards them. This helps to develop their self-confidence through enjoying spending time with a familiar and trusted adult. The childminder ensures that children have good opportunities to develop social skills by taking them to toddler groups and to meet other minded children.

Children show an interest in what they see and do because they have opportunities to develop their own play with the resources available. They choose what they want to do and the childminder provides the materials or activities and adapts as the day goes along. They read books together with the childminder asking questions about the story, so encouraging their interest in books. As they play together with the cars the childminder encourages them to count how many there are and look at colours of different objects. The childminder extends the children's learning and challenges them to think by asking open-ended questions when talking about their morning routine. Lots of praise and encouragement is given to the children, so

promoting their confidence and self-esteem. The childminder supports the children well in their play as she offers different activities as they finish playing with the cars and garage.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning about their local community when going out for walks and outings. They have some opportunities to learn about the wider world and to develop a positive view of diversity as they access some toys and resources such as dolls, books and puzzles that introduce ethnicity and culture.

There are no children currently attending with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The childminder has some understanding of ensuring inclusion for all, but this is limited.

Children's understanding of right and wrong is increased as the childminder explains the consequences of their behaviour and explains why they cannot do something. Children behave well and are encouraged to apologise if they upset another child. Good manners are also encouraged, so promoting consideration for each other.

The partnership with parents is sound as they all work together to ensure continuity of care. The childminder endeavours to adhere to children's routines offered by parents with regards to the care of the children. Parents are kept well informed as they are given a verbal account of their child's day. This ensures consistency of care. However, the childminder has no specific procedure to follow if parents wish to raise any concerns, but is aware there needs to be one in place and would investigate any complaint received.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder effectively organises her premises to provide a homely environment with all the necessary facilities to offer appropriate care.

The childminder generally follows appropriate procedures to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. Files and records are easily accessible, so that, for example, emergency details can be accessed. The certificate of registration is currently displayed so parents are fully aware of the conditions of registration. Confidentiality is maintained as all paperwork is stored securely.

However, the checks on all household members were not available for inspection. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to: confirm that the first aid course is appropriate and includes training in first aid for infants and young children; ensure knowledge of local Area Child Protection Committee's procedures is sufficient; ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice; record information about children's special dietary requirements or allergies. The childminder has attended first aid training which contains a paediatric element and has some knowledge of child protection procedures. More resources have been obtained to positively reflect diversity and details about children's individual dietary needs are maintained.

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 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 medication records and written parental consents are in line with the National Standards
- ensure that the garden and kitchen areas are made safe with regard to the mirror and the knife drawer
- ensure a complaints procedure is in place and parents are made aware of Ofsted's details should they wish to make a complaint
- develop further the knowledge and understanding of The Disability Discrimination Act
- ensure all checks on household members are available for inspection.

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