



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	224237
Inspection date	14 July 2005
Inspector	Benita Catherine Hart

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 one adult child in a suburb of Coventry city. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. Bathroom facilities are upstairs. There is no overnight care provided. The family have a cat.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children under 8 years and she currently has 5 children on roll. The location is convenient for local schools, pre-schools, parent and toddler groups and recreational areas. The childminder regularly networks

with other childminders in her area.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. The childminder's home is clean and children are learning the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They understand they must wash their hands before eating, after going to the toilet and after messy play. Children are protected from infection by the childminder's awareness of sensible hygiene standards in the home and a verbal sick children's policy, which is discussed with parents, and protects other children in her care. All accident and medication records are up to date and the childminder has a current first aid certificate. Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their good health which involves movement, exercise and fresh air. For example, children regularly go on outings and are taken to the park. They also have opportunities to use music for dance and exercise.

The children's dietary needs are well catered for and children are provided with healthy snacks and meals by the childminder. Children also have opportunities to taste different foods when the childminder links snack time into festivals such as Chinese New Year. The children are offered plenty to drink during their stay with the childminder.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a safe and secure environment. They are aware of areas in the house where they can play and are aware of safety measures the childminder has taken, for example, safety gates, cupboard locks and the fire guard. The childminder also promotes their safety awareness by practising a fire drill every month. Toys and resources are plentiful, clean and in good condition. Children can independently access many of the toys and activities. Resources and equipment are suitable for the children's age and stage of development.

The childminder has all the required documentation in place to ensure the children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, appropriate childminding insurance, a current first aid certificate and information on child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. They benefit from a broad range of activities which are meaningful and stimulating and capture the

children's interest. They enjoy indoor and outdoor activities which are suitably planned for their age and stage of development. They have good opportunities to explore their creativity, for example, through painting, sewing, craft and cooking. The children's work is valued and appreciated as the childminder displays their work and keeps an individual scrap book to give to parents. She encourages the children's independence and free choice and they benefit from her consistent and attentive interaction.

The atmosphere in the childminder's home is warm and caring and the children are very content. They interact well with each other and share toys and resources in a friendly manner. They have good opportunities to mix with other children as the childminder regularly networks with other childminders in her area.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's ability to provide an inclusive provision for all age groups. A good range of meaningful activities and resources promote a positive view of their wider environment and an understanding of others. Children are respected and valued as individuals. They benefit from the childminder's positive relationship with parents and parents' wishes are respected.

The children are well settled and have a sense of belonging. They behave well and praise, support and prompt attention from the childminder promotes this good behaviour. Children are encouraged to share and care for each other and the childminder is a good role model, caring and responsive to the children's needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and are relaxed in their environment. They are confident in organising themselves to initiate their own play. The childminder plans activities and outings through her daily routine but is flexible to children's needs. Regular information is exchanged with parents. Children also have a scrapbook of art and craft work which they eventually take home.

The childminder has all required documentation and permissions from parents. The register, however, does not document children's arrival and departure times. Documentation is stored securely when not in use. The childminder's flexible routine positively contributes to the children's continuity of care and is effective in meeting the children's individual needs.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was asked to record the arrival and departure times of the children on the register but she had only recorded if the children attended am or pm. This still remains a recommendation.

She was also asked to maintain documentation in a more organised manner. She now has all documentation in a file, which is easily accessible and is maintained in a satisfactory manner.

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 the times of arrival and departure of the children are recorded in the register.

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