

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY264240
Inspection date	16 July 2007
Inspector	Jasvinder Kaur
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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and 13 in Tipton, Sandwell. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. Children have no access to the first floor.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five part-time, and one child over five during school holidays. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is a member of National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children generally learn the importance of personal hygiene through most organised activities and routines. They are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and

before eating. They are protected from the spread of infection because there is a procedure in place to exclude children with infectious illnesses. The childminder is aware of the necessity of keeping a record of accidents and medication administered to children. However, written parental consent has not been requested for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice. This means children may not receive appropriate care in an emergency. The childminder is active in ensuring suitable hygiene in relation to nappy changing practices. A common sense approach is adopted to ensure animals do not pose a health risk to children. All the children are provided with separate towels and drinking cups.

Children benefit from healthy and nutritious meals which cater for their individual needs. They are developing an awareness of healthy eating through arranged activities and appropriate toys. At meal times and snack times they choose their food with confidence. Younger children are regularly offered drinks to ensure none remain thirsty. A selection of drinks is readily accessible for all children at all times. They enjoy a relaxed atmosphere at mealtimes. The childminder is well aware of children's dietary requirements and preferences through consultation with parents.

Children enjoy a good range of energetic physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They develop self-confidence in their physical skills as they use a wide range of indoor and outdoor toys and equipment. They enjoy playing at their local park and play centres and walking with the childminder's dog on a regular basis. There are suitable arrangements for rest and sleep according to children's individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children feel secure and safe as the childminder provides a safe environment. The childminder carries out safety checks around the areas which minimise the risks to children. They are encouraged to learn about possible hazards and to keep themselves safe both indoors and on outings. Safety issues are highlighted in house rules. The good organisation of equipment enables children to move around safely in the house. Children develop a good awareness of safety measures through emergency evacuation drills on a regular basis. They are supervised at all times.

Children benefit from a welcoming environment. Space is used appropriately and creatively in the house. Children have easy access to a wide range of toys and equipment which enables them to develop their learning skills. These resources are stimulating and provide sufficient challenge in most areas of children's development. The good organisation of resources provides free choice to encourage children's independence.

The children are well protected because the childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of her child protection responsibilities. She is able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children show interest and happily take part in a wide range of good quality activities and play opportunities. They are confident in the setting and positively interact with the childminder and each other. The childminder responds well to their individual needs, including babies who express their feelings and needs with limited verbal communication. To develop their imagination

and language they take part in a variety of learning experiences including visiting a library, reading and listening to stories. Babies show interest in the environment where they can explore, investigate and enjoy their play. All children explore colours, textures and shapes, and express their thoughts and ideas through a wide range of resources. Good opportunities are provided to develop their creative talents, as they create their own art work alongside more structured art activities for the purposes of themed pieces or a wall display.

Children take part in physical activities regularly and make good use of local amenities. Using a variety of toys and equipment, they develop their intellectual, mathematical and communication skills. Children are involved in a wide range of first-hand learning experiences including cooking and gardening. Younger children are included with appropriate help from the childminder. All children develop their social skills and enjoy being with other children at the childminders' meetings and at the toddler group. This means children make progress in most areas of learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children appear to be settled as the childminder is well aware of their needs. All children learn social skills and enjoy being with adults and peers. They develop their knowledge and understanding of the wider world through appropriate resources that promote equality of opportunity. Children are involved in decision making when selecting play and taking part in little household activities. For example, they help the childminder to tidy up toys, collect small items when shopping and put them away when they return home. Although there are no children currently attending the setting who have special needs, the childminder is able to provide care which would include them in the life of the setting through discussing children's needs with parents and relevant organisations.

The children are happy and confident as the childminder uses a positive and consistent approach to managing behaviour which takes into account children's levels of understanding and maturity. They are encouraged to share with, and respect others, by her positive role model and example. Behaviour management is discussed with parents through verbal communication and well documented policies. Parents play an active part in themed activities by providing appropriate resources and clothing for children. The children benefit from the childminder's positive and professional relationship with parents which mean that children's needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and at ease in an organised and safe environment. They benefit from welcoming premises where they feel secure and their individual needs are taken into account. Required adult-child ratios are maintained at all times to meet children's needs effectively. The childminder regularly attends courses to keep abreast with developments in childcare. She holds a first aid certificate which is regularly updated. She has suitable arrangements to protect children and has undertaken relevant vetting procedures. This ensures that children receive appropriate care.

Most of the documents are maintained and stored appropriately. They are readily available for inspection and shared with parents to keep them informed of their child's care and routines. Parents' contributions are valued. Additional documentation is made available to parents relating to the childminder's qualifications, policies and information about the service provided.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, the childminder agreed to: ensure all records are stored securely; make sure parents sign register at the end of the week and increase resources of positive images of children with special needs.

The childminder now stores all records in a locked cupboard. She asks the parents to sign the register on a daily and weekly basis. She has provided a wide range of toys and books reflecting positive images of special needs. This means children's needs are met regarding these issues.

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):

- request written parental consent for seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

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