



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300319
Inspection date	25 July 2005
Inspector	Angela Howard

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 1995. She lives with her husband and two children aged 9 and 14 years. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and 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 three children under eight years and three children over eight years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a dog.

The childminder is currently a member of the National Childminder's Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally well protected from illness and infection as they follow appropriate hygiene procedures and are cared for in well maintained and clean premises. They are encouraged to take care of their own personal hygiene, such as the washing of hands before and after eating. This results in children developing a clear understanding of appropriate personal hygiene. Arrangements for the dog successfully promote generally good levels of hygiene and ensures she does not pose a health risk to children.

Children have access to an acceptable range of physical activities, which contributes to their good health. They walk to and from school, visit local parks and access an acceptable range of equipment when accessing the outdoor play area. Children are able to rest or be active according to their needs and enjoy regular supervised access to the trampoline in the rear garden.

Children are provided with a healthy and nutritious range of snacks and meals. Clear records show dietary requirements, children's and parent's preferences are catered for appropriately. The childminder encourages children to discuss options so that they do have choices for example, whether they want water, juice or milk to drink.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in secure premises and benefit from the use of an appropriate range of safety equipment. Most safety requirements are in place, although some socket covers are missing and the fire blanket is not appropriately sited in the kitchen. The childminder has recognised that some areas of the home do need good supervision to ensure that children continue to remain safe. For example, a safety gate cannot be fixed to the bottom of the stairs, so younger children are carefully supervised to prevent them accessing the first floor. This results in children being able to move around the premises safely.

Children's toys and equipment are of generally good quality, conform to safety standards and are stored appropriately to allow children freedom to access them safely and independently. Opportunities are provided for children to have a choice in an environment kept safe by a knowledgeable adult who knows there should be a balance between freedom and safe limits.

Children are adequately protected as the childminder has a reasonable understanding of her role and responsibilities with regards to child protection matters. She is not fully confident in her understanding of the Area Child Protection Procedures but does recognise some potential indicators of abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally happy and content. They are confident and mainly settled in the environment. Although, at times children wander around aimlessly due to the basic range of activities and resources on offer. There are acceptable daily routines, which help children to feel secure and at ease in their surroundings. The flexible routine allows children to pursue their own interests so that they discover more about what they like and dislike.

Children make their own choices about their play from a basic range of resources. They are encouraged to access resources themselves, so developing their sense of self assurance. For example, children engage in concentrated imaginative play in which they extend their language, try out new ideas and select suitable resources as they build a den from cushions. This activity is stimulated by something seen on the television.

Children relate well to the childminder. They share a warm and caring relationship with each other and have formed good friendships. Children are learning appropriate social skills and enjoy being with and talking to adults and other children. This results in them being able to build meaningful relationships.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal concern and their individual needs are met appropriately. This is due to the childminder taking time to get to know the children and working with parents to ensure their daily routine is followed successfully. Children are broadly content and are showing a strong sense of belonging. They are familiar with daily routines and have formed good relationships with each other, the childminder and her family. This results in children being independent and feeling safe and secure, through which they develop self confidence, a belief in themselves and healthy self esteem. Children are confident to ask questions, voice opinions and make choices. Their choices are respected and they are given the encouragement to negotiate and bargain. For example, a child did not want to share the furry cushions, the childminder successfully negotiated with her allowing her to count and share the cushions fairly.

Children are provided with an adequate range of resources which are not gender biased. However, there is insufficient equipment and activities provided to help children to learn about the wider world around them through their play.

Children behave well. A clear and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour effectively encourages children to behave well. They learn right from wrong in a warm and caring environment. Children are given clear instruction and guidance and this results in them knowing what is expected of them.

Partnerships with parents and carers are good which contributes to the children's

overall well-being. On going verbal communication ensures that parents are kept up-to-date about their child's care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises space and resources generally well and follows children's individual routines to promote children's welfare and development appropriately. Children feel at home and at ease in their surroundings. This means they are confident and relaxed which contributes to the children's overall well-being.

The majority of required documentation is in place, mostly up-to-date and presented appropriately. Required adult:child ratios are met; this provides acceptable levels of care and supervision to ensure children are appropriately supported in their learning and care. Overall, the provision meets the needs of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure children did not access the side of the premises or the brambles at the bottom of the garden. She was to review regulatory documentation and ensure all was in place.

The side area of the garden is now inaccessible for children and the brambles at the bottom of the garden have been removed. All required regulatory documentation has been reviewed and is now in place. This ensures that children remain safe on and off the premises.

A recommendation was placed suggesting that the range of toys and activities offered to children be extended. A limited amount of improvement has been made in this area. Therefore, children's knowledge and understanding of the wider world has not been fully developed.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection a concern was raised in relation to Standard 2. The allegation received was in respect of the number of children the childminder was caring for at any one time. The provider was asked to respond to the concerns. An acceptable explanation was received. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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.
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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 from parents written consent to obtain emergency treatment for all children in your care
- develop the range of activities and resources which reflect and promote equal opportunities
- provide a broad range of interesting and stimulating activities and resources, suitable for children aged birth to 8 years

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