

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY291828
Inspection date	21 November 2007
Inspector	Patricia Dawes
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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged four and seven years in Wolverhampton, West Midlands. The childminder works with another registered childminder. The co-minder's husband and two children aged six and nine years live at the same property. The whole ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. Both childminders have joint responsibility for the childminding practice. Currently they are caring for five children between them on a part-time basis. Both childminders take turns to drive to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder and her co-minder attend the local parent and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children benefit from the childminder's use of good, effective and consistent hygiene procedures. They learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through well-planned daily routines, such as, washing hands before lunch, and after playing in the garden. The childminder obtains appropriate information from parents about individual children's health care needs, and has formats available to record any accidents or to administer medication. A first aid box is readily available to manage accidents, however the childminder has not obtained parental consent to seek emergency treatment or advice and her first aid certificate has expired. This has the potential to compromise children's health in the event of an accident or emergency. This means children's health and welfare are not adequately promoted.

Children are beginning to understand the importance of a healthy diet. The childminder talks to children about healthy options explaining to younger children why milk is good for babies as it helps them to grow big and strong. The childminder follows parents' wishes regarding the provision of snacks and meals, which take into account children's individual dietary needs and preferences. Younger children are offered regular drinks; older children can access drinks independently. All children are able to rest or sleep according to their individual routines.

Children have access to a large garden where they have good opportunities for physical play, such as, riding bikes and scooters or playing with sand and water or playing ball games. The childminder takes children for walks around the area, to the shops and local park or to fun children's play venues. She also drives to collect children from home taking them to school or nursery. These opportunities help to develop children's physical growth and contribute well to promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are safe and well cared for in a clean, homely, and well-maintained environment. They are relaxed and at ease and able to enjoy meaningful activity indoors and outdoors. There are adequate procedures in place for the safe arrival and collection of children, for example, main doors are kept securely locked and identification is requested prior to gaining entry.

The childminder uses space within her home well. Resources are organised effectively to meet children's individual needs. They are able to make choices and self-select from resources, which are appropriate for their age and stage of development. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to ensure they are safe and clean. As a result, children's independence is appropriately promoted.

Children to move around safely, freely and independently within the home as most hazards are effectively assessed and minimised. The childminder discusses with children the reasons for practising regular fire evacuations and all children on roll have the opportunity to participate. Smoke alarms are in place however, the fire blanket is not in situ on the kitchen wall as recommended by the Fire Safety Officer. This has the potential to compromise children's safety in the event of a fire. Children are developing an awareness of road safety when they are on outings and excursions as the childminder offers them appropriate support and guidance.

The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse. However, she is not fully aware of the recent changes in legislation and there is no written statement for child protection available or shared with parents. Her knowledge of the procedure to follow if an allegation is made against herself or a family member is limited. Consequently, children are not fully safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Close and caring relationships between the childminder and children help support children's learning well. They are very confident, settled and happy because the childminder's interaction is good; she has a warm rapport and calm, gentle approach, reassuring children, listening carefully to what they say and showing interest in what they do. She has a good understanding of how children learn using her knowledge from gaining her National Vocational Qualification in Childcare and Education. She plans activities, which provide challenge, and recognises young children's efforts and achievements.

Children are able to make choices about their play and join in enthusiastically as there is a stimulating range of activities that is interesting, fun and develop their curiosity, creativity and imagination. For example, making diva lamps and painting Mendhi pictures or designing their own cards for Eid. Activities are adapted to ensure that all children can participate; as a result, children are very confident to try new experiences.

Children's language and communication skills are promoted as the childminder encourages them to try new activities in safe, supportive environments such as toddler groups where they establish clear friendships. They are able to talk about their friends at playgroup. They learn to play together, share and take turns. This promotes their social skill well. The childminder is skilful and interacts well with the children. She has a positive attitude and is respectful, valuing what each child has to offer. Children are able to ask questions, and the childminder responds appropriately. She offers the children lots of positive praise and encouragement to help develop children self-esteem and confidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are met well. They are valued and respected as individuals because the childminder follows routines and individual preferences, which help children to settle in quickly and feel comfortable. This promotes a strong sense of belonging and children develop firm, caring relationships with each other and the childminder. Children are able to make decisions and initiate their own play, which enhances their time spent with the childminder. Children's awareness of diversity is promoted through the selection of resources available, which reflect positive images. The childminder intends to access the local toy library to continue to increase this provision to promote children's understanding of the wider world.

The childminder is aware that some children may have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She has a positive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She has considered how the environment and activities could be adapted to ensure inclusion. She understands the importance of working in partnership with parents and with other professionals to promote the welfare and development of all children.

Children's self-esteem is well supported. They behave and play together; learn to share and take turns and to show care and consideration for each other. This is due to the childminder using simple rules, gentle reminders and through discussions to help children know what is expected from them and ensuring they learn right from wrong. She has a warm rapport with children and offers praise and encouragement throughout their daily routine, which promotes positive behaviour.

A positive relationship with parents is encouraged from the beginning, as the childminder welcomes parents to spend time with their children settling them in. Information is shared verbally on a daily basis about children's care and activity to ensure their needs are met and to provide continuity of care. The childminder has a complaints policy in place, which outlines procedures to follow if a parent has a complaint. She would share the complaints record with parents while still maintaining confidentiality.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that persons who have contact with the children are suitable and have satisfactorily completed the relevant vetting procedure. She has appropriate experience and enthusiasm to enable her to childmind.

Children are happy and confident in the childminder's care where they initiate and extend their own play and learning; they feel at ease within the homely environment. The childminder organises space and her time to ensure children's play opportunities are maximised and their individual needs are consistently met.

Most documentation, which contributes to children's health and safety is maintained appropriately, such as the children attendance register. Children's individual records and parental contracts are stored confidentially and updated on a regular basis. This helps to form a positive relationship with parents to promote children's care learning and play. However, she has not developed her knowledge and understanding of the National Standards with regard to maintaining her first aid certificate and displaying her certificate of registration. Therefore, she is not meeting current regulation in line with the National Standards for Childminding, and this means that the provision does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration, 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children
- ensure that the child protection procedure complies with that of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and set in place a procedure to notify Ofsted of relevant matters
- display the certificate of registration for childminding.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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