



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	209978
Inspection date	03 September 2005
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 1999. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and eleven years. The whole ground floor, first floor bathroom and rear bedroom of the childminder's house are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five part time and one child over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

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 swimming, walking to the school and playing at the local park. There are suitable arrangements for rest and sleep according to children's individual needs.

The children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through well organised activities and routines. They wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating their snack. They are protected from the spread of infection because there is a procedure in place to exclude children with infectious illness. The childminder holds a first aid certificate which is regularly updated. Accident and medication records are well maintained and shared with parents who countersign all entries. However, she has not yet requested written parental consent for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice. This means children may not receive appropriate care in an emergency.

Children benefit from healthy and nutritious meals which cater for their individual needs. They confidently choose when they want a drink and snack. Younger children are regularly offered drinks to ensure none remain thirsty. The children enjoy a relaxed atmosphere at mealtimes. The childminder is well aware of children's dietary requirements and preferences through consultation with parents.

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 welcoming and safe environment. They are encouraged to learn about possible hazards and to keep themselves safe both indoors and on outings. The good organisation of toys and equipment enables children to move around safely in the house and garden. It is ensured that they are supervised at all times. They develop a good awareness of safety measures through emergency evacuation drills on a regular basis.

Children benefit from good use of the space available in the house and in the garden. They have easy access to a wide range of toys and equipment which enables them to develop their learning skills. The resources are well organised to provide free choice to encourage children's independence.

The children are well protected because the childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of her role in child protection. She has attended the relevant training and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary. However, she has a limited knowledge of the requirement of keeping a record of existing injuries to

children. This means children may be at risk.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident in selecting resources and activities of their choice. They have access to a selection of resources for example art and crafts, books, toys, dressing up clothes, shapes and outdoor toys which help them to advance their learning skills. They make good progress through well planned activities and free play opportunities. They are involved in a wide range of first hand learning experiences including painting and drawing, visiting the library and playing with other children at their local park. This helps them to develop their language, imagination and social relationships. They use a variety of resources to develop their intellectual skills. They are developing their writing and reading skills due to the childminder's knowledge and commitment in attending relevant training courses.

The children are confident in the setting and have a good relationship with the childminder. They interact with her continually and develop their communication skills. For instance while playing with playdough they say how many different types of shapes they have cut and describe their colours. They are independent and confident, as the childminder responds to their particular interests including creative and regular out door play in the garden and park.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children are happy and well behaved. The childminder uses a positive and consistent approach to managing behaviour which takes into account children's level of understanding and maturity. They are encouraged to share with and respect others through her positive role model and example. Behaviour management is discussed with parents through verbal communication and well documented policies.

The children have a sense of belonging. They learn social skills and enjoy being with other children. They develop their knowledge and understanding of the wider world through appropriate activities and resources such as books, toys and dressing up. They are involved in decision making when selecting activities and drinks. 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 a well organised and safe environment. They benefit from welcoming premises where they feel secure and their individual needs are taken into account. The childminder regularly attends courses to update her knowledge of childcare issues. She has suitable arrangements to protect children

and has undertaken relevant vetting procedures.

Most of the childminder's documents are clear, well maintained and stored appropriately to ensure confidentiality. They are readily available for inspection and shared with parents to keep them well informed of their child's care and routines. 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 who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to make the bathroom door's lock safe. She now has removed the lock to ensure that children do not lock themselves in the bathroom. This means the children are safe.

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 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):

- keep a record of existing injuries to children
- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

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