



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 210342 |
| Inspection date | 26 September 2005 |
| Inspector | Elaine Poulton |

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| 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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered 1987. She lives with her family in a property near to shops and there are parks and a library within walking distance. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, along with the bathroom and one bedroom on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area to which all children have access.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children under 8 years of age. There are currently 3 children who attend on a part time basis a 14 month old, a 21 month old and a 4 year old.

The childminder attends the local playgroup with the children in her care.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Younger children are encouraged and assisted appropriately with their personal hygiene routines. They are beginning to understand the importance of washing and wiping their hands before eating and are learning about staying healthy. Older children use the bathroom independently and are learning about dental and personal hygiene, through daily routines which are practised consistently.

Children eat their meals and snacks together and benefit from a healthy range of nutritious foods. They are offered regular drinks and help themselves to their beakers independently choosing when to have a drink. Children have their dietary needs met as the childminder works well with parents to meet their individual needs.

Children take part in varied activities and enjoy active indoor and outdoor play, gaining better control of both larger and smaller movements, for example, using wheeled toys and small cars and garage. Regular walks to school and visits to the park, library and shops contribute to their physical well-being and their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children can move around safely as space is well organised. They are free to explore and experiment during indoor and outdoor play and they enjoy the activities. Children are well supervised as the childminder is aware of the importance of safety arrangements and reducing hazards. They play in a secure garden and have access to a good range of age appropriate resources and well maintained equipment to meet their needs.

Children play in a warm, welcoming environment and are gaining a good awareness of the importance of their own safety and others'. Children are gaining a good understanding of dangers inside and outside the home as the childminder includes them in discussions. Older children are aware of what is safe and acceptable, for example, not to have their play clothes washing line out when younger children are present, as they may get tangled up and hurt themselves.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted through the childminder keeping having a current first aid certificate, and a secure understanding of the child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee guidelines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children experience a varied range of activities which contribute to their overall development for example imaginative play, painting, sorting and sizing, mark-making and physical outdoor play. Children enjoy their time with the childminder and settle in quickly. They behave well and are encouraged and praised appropriately.

They benefit from regular outings to the park, library, shops and local playgroup. Children are becoming more independent as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities which appeal to all age ranges.

They listen and respond to the childminder and enjoy their time with her. Children's interest is sustained and learning is encouraged through a very good range of suitably maintained resources that promote equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice well.

Currently, there is a lack of provision of such as, the 'Birth to three matters' framework, to help the childminder plan and support younger children's all round development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a two way exchange of information and friendly relationship between parents and childminder. Behaviour management tactics are discussed with parents, this promotes children's welfare and ensures information about individual likes and dislikes is shared and needs are met.

Children are encouraged to play together and behave well. Children's self esteem is promoted and good behaviour is praised. Children have their own coat pegs, towel and flannel with their name on and are involved in household activities which in turn help them to feel valued. Younger children are encouraged to play together and take turns on equipment, such as the slide and swings at the park. They are helped to develop a positive attitude toward one another and are gaining a sense of what is right and wrong.

Children have opportunity to play with equipment, games toys and resources that all reflect positive images of different cultures, religions and lifestyles. They are beginning to show care and concern for each other and have a developing awareness of others' needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease with the well organised space and resources. Children's individual information is shared regularly with parents to keep them well

informed about their child's routines and activities.

Policies are used effectively to promote the welfare and care and needs of the children. Procedures are followed by the childminder to keep children safe and protect them from illness and infection, for example, by maintaining good hygiene routines.

The childminder exploits a wide range of toys, games, resources and equipment and organises a good range and balance of activities to enhance children's learning and development in all areas.

Overall the provision meets the needs of all the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were two recommendations from the last inspection and the childminder has made good improvement to both. She has introduced safety gates to the bottom of the stairs and conservatory. She has increased the resources, games and toys to reflect positive images of different cultures and lifestyles.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints recorded.

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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

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):

- further develop, plan and organise resources and play opportunities to effectively meet the development needs of all children, for example by using the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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