



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY292501
Inspection date	12 October 2005
Inspector	Patricia Webb
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 has been registered since 2005. She lives with her 3 children aged 2 years, 5 years and 8 years in a semi-detached house close to the centre of Dudley. Childminding is conducted on the ground floor with additional use of the first floor for sleeping children. Children over 8 years of age also access a bedroom for additional play space. Minded children use the upper patio area of the garden adjacent to the house for outdoor play.

There are local shops and amenities within easy walking distance and the childminder regularly attends local toddler and childminder support groups.

The childminder is registered to care for 4 children under 8 years of age at any one time. There are currently 10 children on roll of whom 5 are under 8 years of age. Most of the children attend on a part time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy and are developing an awareness of good hygiene. This is as a result of the very effective routines implemented by the childminder to ensure that children wash their hands and assist in wiping tables after messy play. Good procedures are used by the childminder to provide a positive example for the children to follow as she ensures her own practice reduces the risk of the spread of infection. Children respond to her sense of fun as she uses humour and imagination in involving children in their own hygiene routines such as asking a toddler to fetch the 'magic mat' for his nappy changing. Procedures for caring for sick and infectious children are shared with parents. The childminder is currently booked on a course to obtain her first aid certificate.

Children's dietary needs are closely followed as the childminder discusses this aspect in detail with parents. Drinks are offered throughout the day as children have their own cups and beakers and confidently request juice and milk as well as water. Children enjoy the varied and nutritious meals and snacks provided by the childminder. The social aspect of meal times is promoted effectively as the children sit comfortably together at a low level table in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. They express their preferences for fresh fruit and their favourite flavour of yoghurt and the childminder records detailed information regarding religious and personal preference requirements. She researches individual needs such as exploring recipes for vegetarian diets and ensuring that provision for religious requirements is in line with specific families' needs.

Children enjoy many opportunities for physical activity. They access a wide variety of equipment to develop skills and confidence in riding wheeled toys and playing ball games. They visit many outside venues to expand and extend their abilities in climbing, running and balancing. Her developing knowledge and subsequent implementation of the Birth to three framework ensures that appropriate activities are offered to enhance young children's overall physical progress.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very well-organised environment where most risks to children are limited through good safety procedures. Children develop an understanding of their own safety as they actively engage in the fire drills and emergency evacuation procedures and ensure that small pieces of toys are not left

lying around when younger children are present. They discuss road safety on the walks to and from school and when visiting other venues. The carpet strip in the kitchen diner is loose and poses a hazards of tripping for young children particularly when mastering early walking skills.

They are relaxed and settled in the clean, warm and comfortable child focused environment. The clean and welcoming family home provides displays of information for parents including the emergency evacuation procedures and weekly menus as well as some of the children's art and craft work.

Children use a varied range of safe, good quality, developmentally appropriate resources and equipment. The childminder is vigilant in checking resources daily and carries out effective cleaning to reduce the risk of the spread of infection. Children have free access to many of the resources fostering their independence and encouraging them to make choices about their activity.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder understands her duty of care to act in their best interests if she had any concerns regarding child protection. She is seeking to extend her knowledge of the local authority procedures to ensure she is more aware of the actual processes involved.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident in the childminder's care. They engage in a range of well planned and researched activities that appeal to their age, ability and interest as they explore the lives of the Vikings and discover different modes of transport. These topics are used to develop children's knowledge and concentration as they delight in visiting a local venue to become involved in re-enactments of Viking life.

Children's learning, imagination and creativity are fostered as they participate in art and craft activities, painting, junk modelling and dressing up as part of their role play. They develop their language and communication as the childminder takes time to chat and repeat phrases from stories and rhymes to reinforce their learning. Children cuddle up with her for stories and the occasional use of the television when children are showing signs of being tired.

Children are encouraged to think as the childminder demonstrates a keen understanding of child development and how children learn as she effectively questions them on their activities and interests. For example, she draws their attention to the helicopter flying overhead and asks them to find the toy helicopter on the shelf in the kitchen.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a very warm and positive relationship with the childminder who is fully committed to respecting and valuing each child in her care. She identifies individual

needs taking time to discuss these in detail with parents. Children develop an awareness of their community and local surroundings as they undertake interesting outings and trips to local venues and amenities such as commercial play centres, the zoo and local shops and library. They access a range of resources that reflect positive images of society as the childminder uses the local toy library to enhance her selection and ensure children develop a positive attitude towards all aspects of society. She is aware of developing children's self-esteem and uses her skills to ensure that children are settled and feel secure in her care. For example, she uses some phrases in French to provide some familiarity for a child with English as an additional language.

Behaviour is very positive as the children understand the simple rules and boundaries they follow. The childminder explains her expectations to the children so that they are aware of the consequences of their behaviour on others. She demonstrates a keen understanding of age appropriate behaviour as she handles tantrums in a calm and positive way, distracting the child and refocusing interest. This results in the child feeling secure and supported at a time when they may feel confused and out of control.

Children benefit from the excellent relationship the childminder fosters with their parents. She takes time to discuss specific requirements in great detail and shares her comprehensive policies and procedures that clearly outline her professional but friendly approach to childminding and caring for their children as they wish. They receive detailed written information regarding their child's day and are encouraged to use the daily contact book as a two way means of communication. This ensures that any concerns regarding the service and care of the child is addressed by either side at an early stage.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit greatly from the commitment and professional approach the childminder brings to her service. Their welfare, care and development are promoted very effectively as she takes her role very seriously and endeavours to offer a very positive experience for the children, their families and herself.

Children are settled and secure in her care and are well supported as she makes time for each child, addressing their needs effectively. They confidently access the areas of the home as they are familiar with the routines and know their requests will be acknowledged.

The childminder constantly evaluates her service to ensure she is doing the best she can for the children and their families and undertakes relevant training whenever possible to update her skills and knowledge. She shares her own web site with parents where they access a regular newsletter and are fully informed of her detailed but easily readable policies and procedures.

All the legally required documentation is carefully prepared and maintained with confidentiality acknowledged. Parental consent for trips and outings is currently given

verbally only and not written down.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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):

- develop knowledge of child protection procedures in line with the local authority Safeguarding Children procedures
- ensure that the kitchen flooring does not pose a tripping hazard to children
- ensure that parental consent for trips and outings is given in writing

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