



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY243126
Inspection date	09 September 2005
Inspector	Jim Bostock

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 lives with her partner in a semi-detached property in a residential area which is close to local parks and the beach. She has one child aged 2. Areas of the house used for minding purposes include the lounge/dining area, kitchen and upstairs bathroom. The rear enclosed garden is also available for outdoor play.

The family have two pets, a dog and a chinchilla. There is no smoking within the household. At the time of inspection there was one child on the register.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children receive a balanced and healthy diet including the provision of fruit, snacks and drinks each day. The childminder presents as having a good understanding of the nutritional needs of children. Children's individual dietary needs are recorded and reflected in the meals and snacks provided. Any special needs the children may have are well met by the childminder. Children benefit from the good communication between childminder and parents about food and drink issues with the childminder fully respecting any requests from parents. There is easy and constant access to drinking water within the playrooms so that children develop independence well. The childminder helps children learn about healthy eating and using meals as social occasions.

Children's health and hygiene is promoted through the childminder having undertaken suitable training and the carrying out of daily routines including washing of hands before eating and after toileting.

Although there have been no accidents to record the childminder is aware of the requirements and would meet these. Medicines have been administered with general written permission from parents but without appropriate recording. The childminder agrees to ensure she has individual permission and to record and share with parents any medicine administered so that children are protected.

Children's physical development is promoted through regular outdoor play in the local park or from visits to interesting places such as the aquarium. Outings are fully discussed with parents and safety is given a high priority.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment which is light and in good decorative order. The childminder promotes child safety within the home through encouraging children to be aware of danger and keeping themselves safe, as well as taking precautions to reduce the risk to children. Children's safety is promoted within the home by the undertaking of regular risk assessments, the results of which are acted upon. Close supervision of children is used by the childminder to help prevent accidents and keep children safe.

The childminder is aware of fire safety: she has made provision for a safe and efficient evacuation and has suitable fire safety equipment such as smoke alarms and a fire blanket to help protect children. The childminder has a good awareness of the issues involved in protecting children and has undertaken child protection training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have a warm and caring relationship with the childminder. They interact confidently with the childminder who shows a detailed understanding of their individual needs. Children are encouraged to be independent with support and guidance in selecting and using the toys and equipment effectively. Expressive and enthusiastic language is used by the childminder when interacting with the children, who respond with enthusiasm and interest. Children's abilities and confidence are developed through effective use of the wide selection of resources available. The childminder has a good understanding of the educational development of children, putting into practise skills and methods gained from experience and relevant training. Children's self esteem is developed through the childminder valuing each child's contribution. The childminder has a fundamental knowledge and experience of the care and provision for babies and very young children and is aware of Birth to Three Matters to help organise the activities and promote children's development.

Children benefit from an activity programme which encourages their interest and progress such as finding mini-beasts, imaginative play with small world figures and painting. Parents are fully involved in their children's experiences form regular updates.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are cared for as individuals with differences being acknowledged and enjoyed. Children gain a very good understanding of the wider world and their local community through outings and topical visits connected to the theme of activities. Children learn to be respectful and interact positively through the childminder acting as a good role model and discussions about what effect our behaviour has on others. Children develop self confidence very well because they receive lots of praise and encouragement. They are eager to participate in activities and respond very well to the childminder. They learn to share, relate well to each other and behave very well.

Relationships with parents are promoted and developed very well. Parents are kept informed of their child's progress and details of their physical care on a daily basis. Parents are fully informed and consulted about all aspects of the care provided with the childminder discussing all issues and incorporating parents' requests into her service. They provide written information for the childminder about their children but there are no contracts with her to ensure the relationship is on the correct footing.

There are good activities, toys and resources related to multicultural play and the childminder has an excellent understanding of special needs issues. From these, children develop an awareness and positive attitude to difference. Children with special needs are very well looked after.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder provides clear routines and organised activities give children confidence in the childminder and the environment. Children benefit from the relevant training attended by the childminder which is reflected in the good standard of care provided, especially with regard to children with special needs. The childminder has attended training in relation to childminding, first aid, special needs and Makaton. The well planned daily routine allows children to experience a wide variety of stimulating and interesting activities.

The documentation kept enhances the care provided by being relevant and well organised apart from the times of children's attendance and medicine records which the childminder has agreed to rectify. The childminder keeps records securely stored to ensure confidentiality. She has written permission for outings, emergency treatment and behaviour management which parents have signed to show they are in agreement with these factors in the care provided. She stated she has current public liability insurance cover so that children are well protected. She agrees to display her certificate on the wall as is newly required.

Overall, the service meets the needs of the children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure she has current first aid qualification which she now has in place. She was also asked to get written permission from parents for outings, which they have provided, and for administering medicine, which they have also provided on a general basis. However, the requirement is to have written permission for each medicine administered which the childminder has agreed to obtain.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- ensure that there is written permission from parents to administer each medicine to minded children
- ensure the record of attendance of minded children clearly shows the time of their arrival and departure
- ensure the certificate of public liability insurance is available for inspection.

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