

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	305635
Inspection date	29 November 2007
Inspector	Lynne Pope
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 was registered in 1992. She lives with her two adult children in the Concord area of Washington. The whole of the ground floor and upstairs bathroom of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding no children under five years all day, two children over five years and three children over eight years before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a rabbit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a clean, well maintained home. They learn the importance of appropriate hygiene and personal care practices following the guidance that the childminder sets. Written consent is in place from parents and carers for children to come into contact with any pets and she ensures that they wash their hands afterwards should they do so. The childminder has

gathered information about children's individual needs regarding diet. A selection of fruit is available daily for children. This promotes their health.

Children have some access to physical activity as they walk to and from school daily. When there is enough light they play in the back garden after school. They are able to rest or be active according to their needs. Records are available to record medication and accidents. However, written consent to seek emergency medical treatment or advice is not in place, to ensure children are cared for effectively in an emergency. The childminder does not hold a current first aid certificate to enable her to care for children should an accident occurs. This is a breach of regulations.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a safe, indoor and outdoor environment. Satisfactory arrangements have been made regarding possible hazards to protect children from harm. A range of resources are set out in the living room for children to make choices about what they want to do. However, some resources are not suitable as they have missing pieces which causes frustration for children. Some of them contain hazardous objects which could harm a child. The result is that children's individual needs are not being met which is a breach of regulations.

Children are kept safe on outings through the procedures the childminder has in place. For example, she ensures they stay close by her particularly when crossing the road. She has some understanding about possible signs and symptoms regarding safeguarding children. However, it is not sufficient to recognise all the signs. This is a breach of regulations. There is no incident record available putting children's safety at risk.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is inadequate.

Children are relaxed and comfortable in the home. They happily choose which Christmas card they would like to decorate and spend an enjoyable time as they colour them in. However, there are not sufficient cards available for them to make more than one. Sufficient complete resources such as construction materials are not readily available. This results in children becoming frustrated. Their self-esteem is not developed when support from the childminder is not sufficient to encourage children developmentally. The childminder does not plan the next steps in children's play and learning as she relies on children deciding what they would like to do. The result is that the range of activities and support does not contribute to their development which is a breach of regulations.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Some activities and discussions help children to become aware of a wider society. Resources reflect different cultures which they use in their everyday play. However, there are no resources that reflect disability, religion or gender roles to promote children's understanding further. Children show a sense of belonging in the setting, as they are relaxed and comfortable. The childminder praises them for some of their efforts and they respond well when they receive guidance. For example, they are encouraged to share resources, such as crayons.

A satisfactory relationship has been established between the childminder, parents and carers. Children's individual needs are discussed with parents and carers before they attend. Daily discussions are held about what children have done. Most policies and procedures are explained to parents and carers. However, they have not been provided with information about how to make a complaint. This is a breach of regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Overall the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides. Children are relaxed and comfortable in the home. Resources are available for them to make their own choices. However, activities do not promote their individual development needs. Resources have not been checked that they are sufficient and that no hazardous items are included. These are a breach of regulations. All necessary records are in place for the care of the children.

The childminder uses most policies and procedures adequately to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. However, parents and carers have not been informed about a complaint procedure in line with current legislation. The childminder is not fully confident in her ability to notice all possible signs and symptoms of abuse and she has not maintained an up to date first aid certificate. These are a breach of regulations.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection a recommendation was made that the childminder develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. She has not developed her knowledge sufficiently to ensure children's safety and welfare so this has been carried forward at this inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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:

- plan and provide a suitable range of activities for children, which are appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs
- provide equipment and toys which are appropriate for their purpose, for example that they are complete and no hazardous objects are available
- develop knowledge of safe guarding children procedures such as, signs and symptoms of abuse
- ensure that an up to date first aid certificate is gained in line with requirements
- develop knowledge of a complaints procedure and inform parents and carers about it in line with current legislation.

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