



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	504750
Inspection date	07 September 2005
Inspector	Jan Burnet

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 was registered in 1993. She cares for children alone and with her husband, who is also a registered childminder. They live in a residential area of Coventry approximately three miles north-east of the city centre with their two children, one aged over 16 and a 13 year old. The family sitting room, dining room and a designated playroom are used for childminding. A fully enclosed garden is available for outdoor play. There are no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children on her own and 8 children with her husband, at any one time. She is currently caring for 4 children aged

under 5 years, all on a part time basis. She walks to a local school to take and collect children and attends a local parent and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is well protected because they are aware of good practice with regard to hand washing before meals, after playing in the garden and after using the toilet, and because the childminder provides anti-bacterial liquid soap. Children's good health is also addressed well because of the childminder's cleaning routines and preventative measures in place to ensure minimal risk to children, for example good food hygiene practices. The possibility of infection passed from one child to another is low because of a policy that the childminder shares with parents informing them of illnesses that will mean their child should not attend and that they will be expected to collect their child if the child becomes ill. The childminder holds an in-date first aid certificate but the first aid box is not fully stocked.

Children's nutritional requirements are adequately met because the childminder provides a mix of fresh fruit, some salad, some vegetables and what children and parents say they like, for example, fish fingers, chicken nuggets and pizza. Individual dietary needs are known by the childminder. Children are offered drinks throughout the day.

Children are happy and confident in a friendly and welcoming environment. Their emotional well being is appropriately addressed and begins with a gradual settling in period. Children are developing physical skills and confidence with equipment in the childminder's home and at the park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play, eat and sleep in safe and healthy premises. One room is a designated playroom and the family sitting room and dining room are also used for quiet activities and sleep times. Children are able to choose and select resources that are safe, clean and in a good condition.

Children learn how to keep themselves safe; for example, using steps safely in the garden from the lawn to the decked area, road safety and holding hands whilst walking. The childminder is alert to her responsibilities with regard to supervision and children's risk of injury in the home is minimal as she has identified and properly addressed most potential hazards. However, the dining room is now being used for sleeping children and the childminder is unsure if small glass panels in doors are toughened glass.

Children are appropriately protected because the childminder is aware of her responsibilities with regard to child protection and local referral procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled. They are cared for as individuals with different needs and the childminder ensures that an adequate variety of activities and resources are available for all children. Routines are consistent and include activities inside and outside the home. Children are learning and developing as a result of appropriate experiences. Activities inside the home include a variety of messy play and art and craft, domestic and imaginative play, some construction play, books and puzzles. All children are able to enjoy activities because the childminder ensures that resources are appropriate for different stages of development and that activities are adapted. Children develop social skills at parent and toddler groups and physical skills at the park.

Relationships are good. Young children are sociable, confident and play cooperatively. Children's independence is developing as they are able to choose and easily select resources and address their own personal hygiene needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are known and met appropriately by the childminder. Admission forms are thorough and consistency of care between home and childminder is assured with a daily share of information. Parents always visit before care of their child begins and they are asked to be honest about the child, particular with regard to behaviour. In order to address children's emotional needs, parents are expected to gradually settle their child in.

The childminder has no experience of caring for children with special needs but if asked to do so, she would ensure that she and the parent felt that the childminder was able to satisfactorily meet the child's needs. Children are able to choose from some books that reflect positive images of culture, but these are limited and there are no resources that reflect gender or disability.

Children and parents are aware of the childminder's house rules, which include showing consideration for others, cooperation and no fighting. Children aged three and four years are learning to share and take turns. They respond positively to praise and the childminder has developed a points system to acknowledge good behaviour. The childminder is consistent in her management.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled and made welcome in the childminder's home. Daily routines are consistent, activities are appropriate for the children attending and children's independence is developing well. Thorough admission information and verbal communication with parents ensures that individual needs are met. Space is well

organised with three rooms used for different kinds of play activities and sleeping children.

The childminder's oldest child is now aged over 16 years but has not yet been vetted. Required documentation and records are kept up to date.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection the childminder was asked to attend a first aid course and provide and regularly check the contents of a first aid box. She attended first aid training in October 2004 and her certificate is in date until 2007. She has provided a first aid box but it is not fully stocked.

The childminder was asked to provide resources that reflect a positive image of disability. This has not been addressed and resources that reflect culture are less than at the time of the last inspection.

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):

- make sure that every person over the age of 16 living in the household is vetted
- ensure that the contents of the first aid box is regularly checked
- make sure that low level glass is safe
- develop resources that reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability.

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