



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	251962
Inspection date	23 January 2006
Inspector	Jackie Nation

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 1991. She lives with her husband and 3 children aged 16, 13 and 11 years. They live in Wolverhampton within walking distance of local schools, shops and parks. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. One bedroom on the first floor is used for sleep and access to the bathroom facilities. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. There is fish pond in the garden.

The family have a rabbit.

The childminder is registered to look after 6 children under 8 years at any one time. She is currently minding 4 children under 5 years on varied days.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and well-being are well fostered by the childminder. Children are cared for in a warm, clean home, where they gain a good understanding of the importance of good hygiene and personal care. The childminder talks to the children about washing their hands. For example, after using the bathroom, before meals and this helps to reduce the risk of cross infection. Children's individual dietary needs are met effectively, as these are discussed with parents and details of specific dietary needs are recorded. Children are provided with regular drinks which ensures they are kept hydrated.

There are effective procedures in place to protect children from illness and infection. Children are well cared for if they have an accident or become unwell, the childminder keeps parents fully informed about their child's condition at all times. She has written consent from parents to seek emergency medical treatment or advice.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities which contribute to their good health. The childminder recognises the importance of physical activity, children being outdoors in the fresh air and how this promotes their good health and development. There are regular outdoor activities, children enjoy good access to the garden, they walk to school and visit local parks. This helps all children develop confidence and positive attitudes to physical exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, welcoming and secure environment. The childminder has a good understanding of health and safety; she is vigilant and supervises children well. Children benefit from a range of safety measures already in place to minimise hazards and enable them to explore their surroundings safely. However, more detailed attention is required to an aspect of safety regarding the use of play equipment in the garden. This is with particular reference to the trampoline. The childminder gives good priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe, for example, they understand about the rules of road safety and she talks to the children about emergency evacuation procedures. All other aspects of fire safety are given good attention, for example, smoke detectors are checked on a regular basis.

Children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. They select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and resources which offer challenge and are appropriate to their stage of development. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises the use of toys to make sure they are safe and used appropriately by

the children.

Children are protected from possible harm or neglect because the childminder is knowledgeable about child protection. She is aware of her role and responsibility in protecting children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children develop their play and learning because they are contented and familiar with their surroundings. The childminder has a good understanding of child development and she knows the children well. She provides a wide range of stimulating play opportunities and experiences for children which promote their learning and development in all areas. Children are given time to play and learn independently and they enjoy activities which contribute to their creativity, for example, painting, play dough, colouring and craft activities. During routines, activities, and through the use of relevant toys and games, the children are naturally introduced to letters, colours, shapes, numbers and counting. Children have good access to outside play and are able to use a wide range of play equipment.

Children's self-esteem and confidence are promoted because the childminder encourages children to try new activities in a safe and supportive environment. This helps children enjoy the experience and make good progress. Children are well supported because the childminder's interaction with them is very good. Children benefit from the childminder's calm, gentle and reassuring manner. She gives praise, listens carefully to what they are saying, and shows interest in what they are doing. The organisation of the home and use of appropriate resources helps younger children become increasingly independent. Children's care, learning and play are effectively supported.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's welfare and development is promoted because children are welcomed, respected as individuals and are treated with equal concern. Children's individual care needs are recorded following a discussion with parents and they are effectively met by the childminder. Children learn about diversity through discussions and the use of toys and books which reflect positive images. The childminder is sensitive towards inclusion and recognises the importance of continuing discussions with parents to ensure all children's needs are met.

Partnership with parents is very good and this ensures children's care and progress is well monitored. Children benefit from good relationships between their parent and the childminder. This helps them to settle in well, be confident and contributes to their well-being. The childminder spends time with parents introducing them to her recording procedures and policy documents. She provides parents with feedback each day about their child's care, routines and activities.

Children's behaviour is good and their sense of right and wrong is developed through the childminder's understanding of behaviour management. She is a positive role and talks to the children in calm manner, she is friendly and courteous. Children respond to the childminder's clear and consistent expectations. Good behaviour is valued, and good consideration has been given to setting boundaries, setting a good example, and getting on well with each other.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced through the effective organisation of space and resources. The childminder makes good use of space to ensure all children have the opportunity to complete activities. Children are motivated and interested in the toys that are made readily accessible to them. Children benefit from well established daily routines which have good regard for their individual needs. Children have access to a secure and well maintained outdoor area.

Children's good health, safety, enjoyment and achievement are promoted through the use of policies and procedures which work in practice. Documentation is well-organised and record keeping is up-to-date. All documentation is stored securely and organised to maintain confidentiality. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children in her care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve the procedures for recording children's attendance and to ensure that an emergency escape plan is devised and practised with the children.

The childminder has taken appropriate action to follow up both recommendations. She has devised an emergency escape plan and children are aware of what action to take in the event of an emergency. The procedure for recording children's times of arrival and departure are effectively maintained.

This action taken by the childminder has a positive impact on children's safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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 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):

- devise a risk assessment for use of outdoor play equipment with particular reference to the use of the trampoline.

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