



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300064
Inspection date	16 August 2005
Inspector	Angela Howard

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 1991. She lives with her husband. The whole of the ground floor, plus toilet facilities on the first floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding five children under five and two children over five before and after school and school holidays. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder meets regularly with local childminders. The family has a dog and cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminders Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. The childminder actively promotes good hygiene to help prevent the spread of infection and to keep children healthy. She has a valid first aid certificate and clear and effective procedures for the care of sick children which limits the possibility of cross infection. Children's personal hygiene skills are encouraged through appropriate daily routines such as hand washing after using the toilet and before eating. Arrangements for the pets successfully promote acceptable levels of hygiene and ensure they do not pose a health risk to children.

Children have access to a basic range of outdoor equipment that helps to develop gross motor skills and self confidence. They are taken on walks, visits to the local park, soft play areas and to a large playing field for such activities as football. The access to an acceptable range of physical activities contributes to children's good health in a positive manner.

Children enjoy a balanced, healthy and nutritious range of snacks and meals in accordance with parents' wishes. This results in children being generally well nourished as they develop an understanding of the importance of healthy eating. Meal times are treated as an opportunity to help children enjoy their food and become independent in feeding themselves.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in secure premises and benefit from the use of an appropriate range of safety equipment. Hazards are identified and appropriate steps taken to minimise them to allow children to move around freely and safely. For example, socket covers are in place, safety gates and fire guards are available should they be required. The childminder talks to the children about safety issues and supervises them appropriately. This results in children developing an increasing awareness for their own safety.

Children's toys and equipment are of generally good quality and conform to safety standards. Most equipment is stored in a cupboard that children cannot freely access, but some is stored around the home in stacker boxes to allow children freedom to access them safely and independently.

Children are adequately protected as the childminder has a reasonable understanding of her role and responsibilities with regards to child protection matters. She is not fully confident in her understanding of the Area Child Protection Procedures but does recognise some potential indicators of abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children share a warm and caring relationship with the childminder, which ensures that children feel happy, settled and secure. They relate well to the childminder and they enjoy each others company. Children receive acceptable levels of support and encouragement which helps to develop their confidence and self esteem. They are listened to attentively, fun is encouraged and the childminder has a reasonable understanding of children's individual needs and preferences. For example, the childminder puts out a selection of toys each day that interest them, like the cars and car mat and a favourite motorbike.

Children access an interesting and age-appropriate range of activities and experiences. Activities provide acceptable levels of challenge, appropriate to the age and stage of children's development. For example, the younger children are provided with large building blocks and older children smaller building bricks.

Children are happy and content and show a strong sense of belonging. The way equipment is made available for children allows them to make some choices and decisions for themselves. This results in children being involved and interested in their own play. Children spend their time purposefully and enjoy playing with the toys provided. For example, children engage in suitable imaginative play in which they extend their language and try out new ideas, like pushing a motor bike faster than the pedal bike when playing with the toy vehicles.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal concern and their individual needs are met appropriately. Children are happy and content. They are familiar with daily routines and have formed good relationships with each other and the childminder. They clearly benefit from this as they feel secure and confident in their surroundings. Children are encouraged to feel self confident, proud of themselves and are given time to develop at their own pace. Children's choices are respected and they are given the encouragement to negotiate and bargain. For example, at snack time the childminder successfully negotiated that toast would be eaten before the grapes.

Children have access to a limited range of resources and opportunities to learn about themselves and the world around them. This is not fully explored to raise children's awareness about culture, ethnicity and disability.

Children's overall behaviour is good. A clear and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour effectively encourages children to behave well. They learn right from wrong in a warm and caring environment. Children are given clear instruction and guidance and this results in them knowing what is expected of them.

Partnership with parents and carers is good and this contributes to the children's overall well being. On going verbal communication ensures that parents are kept

up-to-date about their child's care. This results in children remaining appropriately cared for and settled.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises space and resources adequately and follows children's individual routines to promote their welfare and development appropriately. Children feel at home and at ease in their surroundings. This means they are confident and relaxed, which contributes to their overall well being.

The majority of required documentation is in place, mostly up-to-date and presented appropriately. Written consent to obtain medical treatment is not in place and the insurance certificate displayed has expired.

Required adult-child ratios are met and provide acceptable levels of care and supervision to ensure children are appropriately supported. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder has obtained written consent for children to access the pets and obtained up-to-date Area Child Protection Procedures. She has made any low level glass safe and ensures children's names are appropriately recorded in any medication records. This ensures children remain safe in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection a complaint was raised in relation to Standard 6. The allegation received was in respect of the number of children the childminder was transporting in her car. The provider was asked to respond to the complaint. An acceptable explanation was received. The provider remains qualified for registration.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- update knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures
- develop knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities and the range of resources and activities that help children to learn about diversity
- obtain written consent to obtain medical treatment for all children
- obtain confirmation that there is valid insurance cover.

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