

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY278968
Inspection date	01 October 2007
Inspector	Jasvinder Kaur
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 2003. She lives with her husband and three children. One of these children is aged 11 and two are teenagers. The family lives in the Low Hill area of Wolverhampton. The whole ground floor and the first floor bathroom of the childminder's house are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding one child under eight. The childminder also cares for children over eight years of age. The family has a pet cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children develop understanding and awareness of personal hygiene through organised activities and routines. They are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. Children are protected from the spread of infection because there is a procedure in place to exclude children with infectious illnesses. The childminder is active in ensuring good hygiene in relation to keeping the setting clean and hygienic to minimise the risk of germs. She is well aware of the necessity of keeping records of medicines and accidents to children. However, she has not completed a first aid course. This compromises children's health.

Children learn about nutritious and well balanced snacks and drinks, as a selection of fresh fruits and drinks are readily available throughout the session. The childminder places importance on a relaxed atmosphere at snack times. She is well aware of children's dietary requirements and preferences through consultation with parents.

Children use some indoor toys which enhance their physical skills. They also play in the back garden and at their local park. This ensures they understand the benefit of exercise and keep physically fit. There are suitable arrangements for rest and sleep according to children's individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally safe. Safety checks are carried out to avoid potential hazards. However, cleaning materials and sharp objects in the kitchen are not made inaccessible to children. This compromises children's safety. They are encouraged to learn some sense of danger and possible harm to keep themselves safe both indoors and on outings. Children are protected by the childminder's sound knowledge of evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Children benefit from a suitable physical environment. Space is used appropriately and creatively in the house and in the garden to ensure children are able to move around with freedom. Although children have easy access to the available toys, the setting lacks sufficient toys and play materials to provide a balance range of activities that promote children's development and learning in all areas. The resources are suitably organised to provide free choice to encourage children's independence.

The children are protected because the childminder has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of her child protection responsibilities. She is able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children show interest and happily take part in activities and play opportunities. They are fairly confident in the setting and interact with the childminder and peers. The childminder responds well to their individual needs and interests and actively takes part in their play. Children make reasonable progress through learning experiences which develop their language, mathematical thinking and imagination. For example, they use their imagination to construct

a variety of things such as aeroplanes out of Lego. To encourage their communication skills the childminder asks the children about, for instance, their experiences at school.

Children select activities and toys of their choice as well as bringing some of their own to the setting. While playing with toys, children are encouraged to recognise different colours and shapes. They are involved in games which enhance their hand and eye coordination. They have access to some resources, for example, materials for arts and crafts and books which help them to develop some learning skills. They enjoy trips to local and more distant parks. This means children make satisfactory progress in some areas of learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and their individuality is respected. The childminder uses a positive and consistent approach to managing behaviour which takes into account children's level of understanding and maturity. They are encouraged to share with and respect others through her positive role model and example. Behaviour management is discussed with parents regularly to ensure a consistent approach is adopted to deal with a range of feelings and emotions. The childminder discusses children's individual needs with parents, which enables her to provide suitable care. Currently there are no children with learning difficulties and /or disabilities being minded, but the childminder is capable of doing so and obtaining appropriate support to ensure that children can make progress in a suitable environment.

Children develop only limited knowledge and understanding of the wider world as the childminder lacks resources which reflect diversity and anti-discriminatory practice. They are involved in decision making when selecting food, drinks, resources and activities. Children benefit from the childminder's positive relationship with parents. The childminder works in partnership with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met. Information is shared with parents on a daily basis through verbal communication. This creates a welcoming environment for children and their parents. This means most of their needs are met adequately.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from welcoming premises where their individual needs are taken into account. Required adult:child ratios are met to ensure children are supported effectively. The childminder regularly attends relevant courses. However, she has not completed a first aid training which is consistent with guidance issued to local authorities by the Secretary of State. This means it is uncertain that she has an up to date knowledge of current childcare arrangements in this respect. Consequently, children's health and welfare is compromised.

The childminder has suitable arrangements to protect children and has undertaken relevant vetting procedures. This ensures that children receive appropriate care. All of the childminder's documents are clear, well maintained and stored appropriately to ensure confidentiality. They are readily available for inspection and shared with parents to keep them informed of their child's care and routines. Additional documentation is made available to parents relating to the childminder's qualifications and information about the service provided.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, the childminder agreed to provide a smoke alarm on the first floor, and this she has now done. This means children's safety is promoted regarding this issue.

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 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):

- take reasonable steps to minimise hazards to children, with particular reference to the sharp objects and cleaning materials in the kitchen
- obtain a sufficient range of toys and play materials to provide a balanced range of activities that promote children's development and learning in all areas and that promote equality of opportunities
- complete a first aid course which includes training in first aid for infants and young children.

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