

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	255107
Inspection date	18 December 2007
Inspector	Sharon Waterfall
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 has been registered since 1992. She lives with her husband and two adult children within the Great Barr area of Birmingham. The premises is within walking distance of local shops, playgroups and schools. The whole of the ground floor and bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years at any one time and is currently minding five children under eight years of age and three children over eight at various times.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy as the childminder understands and follows appropriate guidance. Policies and procedures are adequately implemented overall to support children's health and welfare. Accident records are completed with relevant information and are shared with parents, however the medication records are not consistently signed by parents to confirm that they are aware

the medication has been administered and this reduces the effectiveness of the procedure in supporting children's welfare.

Children are adequately protected from the spread of infection as they partake in simple, health and hygiene procedures. The children are encouraged to understand and learn about the importance of personal hygiene through discussions and some of the daily routines, such as washing their hands with gel cleanser before they eat. Toileting procedures for young children limit their privacy and dignity and do not encourage the appropriate hand-washing procedures.

Children are adequately nourished during the day and receive adequate quantities of food for their needs and their individual preferences are adhered to. Children are present for at least one or two meals each day, some parents provide meals and the childminder provides others. During the day the children will have access to fruit and vegetables and drinks are readily available to keep them hydrated.

Through the daily walks to and from schools and nurseries each day the children receive appropriate fresh air and gentle exercise. They have access to an outdoor play area in good weather and increase fine hand-to-eye coordination skills by accessing jigsaws, crayons and construction toys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Adequate space is made available for children's play in the lounge area of the premises. Resources are stored to enable the children to freely access some of them from low level storage boxes and they can request other activities such as drawing. Equipment supports children's care such as high chairs for the children to eat in, reins for safety when young children are walking and double and single pushchairs to ensure all young children are safely transported.

The childminder has identified and minimised some of the hazards within the home but some remain. Such as cleaning fluids being accessible in the kitchen and bathroom areas, the fire having sharp edges and not having a working smoke alarm on the first floor of the premises. These limit children's safety and welfare. The childminder has given thought to emergency evacuation from the premises and talks to the children about keeping themselves safe, such as not climbing on furniture.

The childminder fully understands her role in protecting children from harm and is able to evidence a secure knowledge of types of abuse and possible symptoms. She has up to date guidance and local contact numbers for relevant agencies should she have concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to engage in an appropriate range of activities which helps them make progress in their development. The younger children have access to drawing activities which enable them to gain confidence in pencil skills and make representations of the world around them. They are also learning about some shapes as they draw circles as their basis for people.

The children enjoy jigsaw puzzles and can identify the animals in the pictures. They talk constantly about what they are doing and the children make up games together using their

imaginations. Some craft activities are made available such as sticking, cutting skills and ink stamps though no specific activities had been planned for Christmas.

Other play opportunities such as construction, cars and trains are available for the children to use for small world and imaginative play. They visit the library to borrow and read books, supporting children's early pre reading skills and enjoyment of stories. The children enjoy watching the television.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's immediate care needs are met as the childminder spends her time directly supporting the children. Their individual preferences are adhered to and for young children their routines are respected. Humour is used well with older children providing positive interactions and warm relationships. The children become aware of diversity through the appropriate resources available to them such as dolls, books and television characters. The childminder has an appropriate knowledge of the issues regarding caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Young children are learning about the need for agreed codes to play harmoniously together such as sharing and turn taking. At times due to their young age this can be a difficult concept for them to manage. However, this is not always appropriately supported by the childminder who can over use more negative than positive strategies, such as negative language effecting children's self-esteem. Good behaviour is promoted through verbal praise and distraction techniques.

Appropriate communication with parents verbally ensures that they are aware of the service provided for their children such as what they have eaten, hours they have slept and what they have done during the day.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are able to confidently explore and investigate as a result of the appropriate use made of the available space. Their sense of security is fostered through effective adult support and a familiar daily routine.

The children's welfare and care is mostly safeguarded through the childminder's record keeping, which is appropriately organised, easily accessible and reasonably securely stored. Though her registration certificate is available to be seen by parents on request it is not displayed obviously, limiting parents awareness of her registration requirements.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two recommendations were made to improve the standards of care for children, these related to providing more resources that promoted positive images and updating the childminder's child protection knowledge. These have both been successfully implemented with resources that promote positive images including dolls and books and the childminder has obtained information and booklets that ensure she has up-to-date knowledge of child protection issues. These support children's development and welfare.

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):

- ensure all records relating to the administration of medication are signed by parents to confirm they are aware of the administration having been completed
- ensure that toileting procedures take into account children's need for privacy and promote appropriate hygiene
- improve children's safety within the home with reference to making the fire safe, ensuring cleaning products are inaccessible to children and installing and maintaining a working smoke alarm on the first floor
- ensure that behaviour management strategies are appropriate to the age/stage of the children, are positive and consistent and promote children's self-esteem
- ensure the registration certificate is prominently displayed when childminding.

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