

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY289206
Inspection date	06 March 2008
Inspector	Judith Chinnery
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?

This childminder has been registered since July 2004. She is able to offer three places to children under eight years and is currently caring for two children aged under five years.

She lives with her husband and five children, aged from three to sixteen years. They live in a three bedroom house in the city, close to a main route into the city centre. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy good health and a healthy lifestyle while at this setting. The childminder is careful to maintain a very clean environment for the children so that the likelihood of cross-infection is minimised. For example, the childminder is careful to ensure that food preparation areas are kept clean. Good hygiene routines are well established to encourage the children to wash their hands, especially after using the bathroom and being outside and to help

them learn about being healthy. Effective records about children's dietary needs and any accidents or medication are also well maintained, which enables the childminder to meet their health needs accordingly.

Children are well nourished because the childminder provides a wide choice of fresh foods including choices of fruit and yoghurt, rice and dahl and other meals. The childminder works with the children and their parents to plan and provide a menu which is both healthy and meets their needs and preferences. Children have access to fresh drinking water at all times, which ensures that they are unlikely to become thirsty.

Children are active, they like to get outside and use the large climbing apparatus to jump and swing on as well as play ball games. Children are developing good large body moving skills because the childminder provides a variety of opportunities both inside and out for children to move around.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and well protected in this setting. The childminder is very vigilant regarding children's safety. The setting is well maintained with safety features such as electric socket covers and stair gates which minimise dangers to the children. External exits are kept secure to prevent unwanted visitors gaining access to the children. Children are able to use the large outdoor climbing apparatus safely because the childminder is careful to plan for and assess any risks, so minimising any hazards to the children.

Children have access to a wide range of well-chosen and developmentally-appropriate resources. They are stored safely around the house but are also available for the children to help themselves. They are able to sit, eat and play safely at the table.

Children are safeguarded in the setting. The childminder is able to recognise the main signs of abuse and has a clear understanding about the need to record and report any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy being in this setting and make good progress in their play and learning. Children benefit from sharing a close relationship with the childminder which helps them to feel settled and secure. The childminder provides a wide range of activities such as drawing, games and cooking, which stimulate and interest the children she cares for. This means that children are fully engaged and busy in exploring and investigating the world around them.

Children are developing into skilful communicators because the childminder talks with them and patiently waits for children to think and answer. The childminder provides activities for the children drawing on her knowledge of their development, their interests and personalities. This means that children are able to make good progress in their development because activities are based on their interests and what they need to do next. For example, children spend time building towers with construction resources and enjoying drawing activities. Opportunities for children to experiment with paint and dough and other activities mean that children are becoming competent learners.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are able to join in, take responsibility and play an active part in this setting. The childminder is committed to working closely with parents asking about particular wishes, likes and dislikes so that children's individual needs are met. Parents receive regular information from the childminder about their child, so that they know what they have been doing during the day. Effective records such as contracts ensure that parents are well informed about the care of their child. Compliments and complaints from parents are managed well.

Children are developing a respect for themselves and others because they can explore and learn about differences, other cultures and beliefs. They do this through sharing books and playing with the small world figures which reflect diversity and positive images. The childminder is knowledgeable about caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She ensures that activities are adapted to suit individual needs and that all children are supported to take an active part in the life of the setting.

Children are well behaved in the setting. The childminder discusses her policies and agrees ways to manage children's behaviour effectively with parents. She gives clear explanations to children about any unacceptable behaviour which are appropriate to their age and understanding. Children readily accept her gentle reminders and explanations. This supports children well in behaving well in the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her setting well to support the care of children. The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

The childminder has undertaken necessary training to promote her understanding of child development and is committed to continually improving her provision though taking up training offered by her local authority. Most records are kept accurately and up to date such as and records of children's details. However, while the childminder keeps records of children's attendance she does not always record accurately when they leave her care, which could impede her ability to manage children's safety and well-being fully. Children enjoy individual attention, which ensures that their care, learning and play are well supported. Well-written policies such as those detailing the childminder's management of health and safety, child protection and behaviour, promote children's ability to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve and make a positive contribution well.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection in February 2005 the childminder was asked to make improvements to the planning of activities and the provision of resources for children. Since then the childminder has made considerable improvements. Children now access a wide range of stimulating and worthwhile toys and activities in the setting which support their care, learning and play effectively. The childminder has also provided a range of resources which reflect diversity and positive images such as in books and figures, which means that children are well supported in developing an understanding of and respect for their own and other people's cultures and beliefs.

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 any 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):

- ensure that children's attendance is recorded accurately particularly the time of departure.

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