

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY278880
Inspection date	08 November 2007
Inspector	Permjit Tanda
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 2003. She lives with her husband and four children aged 15, 14, 12 and 9 years in Wednesbury. The whole of the ground floor and one bedroom on the first floor are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. There are local shops, a park and a school within walking distance.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five years.

She attends the local childminder groups and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of appropriate hygiene and personal care through washing their hands prior to meals and after using the toilet. They stay healthy because the childminder

adopts satisfactory hygiene routines to prevent the spread of infection, for example, children are provided with separate towels to dry their hands and separate bedding. The childminder has completed first aid training and basic food hygiene training and there are effective procedures in place to protect children from infection or if they become ill. All the required documentation and formats are in place for administering medication and recording accidents and therefore the children's welfare is promoted

Children are well-nourished and hydrated. Parents' wishes and the children's choices and special dietary requirements are met through discussion with parents and taking heed of the information provided. Meals are prepared fresh; they are well-balanced with healthy options included.

Younger children develop their physical skills well through the childminder supporting and encouraging them. They freely use the environment indoors to practise and acquire new physical skills, for example, they have use of a wheeled car to use and move safely avoiding obstacles. Children benefit from regular opportunities to further develop their skills through using the garden for outdoor play, the local park and attending childminder support groups which offer further challenge. This contributes towards the children's physical fitness. Children sleep according to their needs and are able to have quiet time for relaxing if they wish. They benefit from the childminder's flexible daily routines which ensure that their individual needs are met appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has taken reasonable positive steps to promote safety within the home, for example, the use of safety gates and electric socket covers means children move safely, freely and independently indoors. Their safety outdoors is continued through ensuring all outdoor toys are safe and supervising children at all times, whilst playing in the garden. Fire safety aspects are sufficiently considered through well-maintained smoke detectors on each level, a written fire action plan and a fire blanket which is easily accessible in the kitchen.

Children have access to a satisfactory range of toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. Children are protected from possible harm and neglect, because the childminder knows how to recognise possible signs of abuse and is aware of her role and responsibility in safeguarding children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident, independent and settle well at the childminder's house. They develop close and caring relationships with the childminder which helps them gain self-assurance. Children enjoy being with the childminder who spends her time interacting and supporting them in their play, for example, together they play with the electronic toy. The routine allows for a fair balance of child-initiated and adult-supported play. Children easily seek comfort from the childminder when they are tired and enjoy being with a familiar adult which contributes to their sense of belonging.

The childminder selects resources and activities which are appropriate for the needs of the children attending and mostly they show appropriate levels of interest in what is available. Some resources are easily accessed through a storage box which is kept on the floor; however, other resources are kept in the outdoor shed and therefore not easily accessible to the children

at their own leisure. Therefore, on some occasions resources made available do not arouse the children's interest. The childminder makes regular use of the toy library to help build on the range of toys and books available. Children have few opportunities to build on their natural curiosity through a varied range of sensory experiences such as paint, arts & crafts activities, dough, sand and water. Children increase their language through the childminder's interactions and they enjoy their time together.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are well-supported because the childminder makes sure children are welcomed into her home and feel a sense of belonging. Children's individual care needs are discussed with parents and routines and preferences followed, this helps children to settle in and feel comfortable. Children learn about diversity through the childminders open approach to difference and through discussion. The childminder is able to adapt the environment and activities to meet the needs of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The childminder meets the children's needs well because she works with parents, in order to identify their likes, dislikes and personalities, for example, open discussion about eating habits and behaviour ensures consistency for the children and helps them make progress. Parents are kept satisfactorily informed of their child's day through daily discussion about their child's day. This contributes to the children's well-being at the setting. A portfolio has been created to ensure parents are made aware of most of the policies and procedures in place; however, it does not include a written complaints procedure including the name and telephone number of the regulator.

Children understand behaviour boundaries because the childminder uses positive strategies which help them learn right from wrong, for example, a simple explanation which is positive and appropriate to the age and maturity of the children remind them why they must not throw the electronic toy. Children gain appropriate levels of self-esteem and confidence through the constant praise from the childminder. They are eager to help tidy up if further encouraged through clapping, praising and smiling at their achievements.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home and at ease in the environment. The childminder is aware of their needs and gives them the time to relax and play at their own leisure. She has a developing understanding of child development and shows a commitment to further increase this knowledge through accessing training and development courses.

The childminder ensures adults having access to children are suitable to do so and organises her day and space to meet the needs of the children. All the required documentation for the efficient and safe management of the provision are in place. All documentation is stored securely and organised to maintain confidentiality. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two recommendations were made to improve the safety and care of children. Firstly, the childminder was asked to ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are maintained, readily accessible on the premises and available for inspection at all

times. Including accident, incident, medication records, child record forms, contracts and required permission forms. The childminder is now a member of the National Childminding Association and therefore uses appropriate contracts and all the required records for the safe and efficient management of the service. Secondly, she was asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. This has been achieved through regular use of the toy library for books, puzzles, dolls and tea-sets.

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):

- build on the range of resources and activities and provide first-hand experiences, which allow children to build on their natural curiosity through a varied range of sensory experiences such as playing with paint, dough and sand
- consider the organisation of toys and resources so that they are readily accessible to children and supports their play and learning
- make available to parents a written complaints procedure which includes the address and telephone number of the regulator.

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