

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160059
Inspection date	13 March 2008
Inspector	Renee Ashton

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 2000. Her husband acts as her assistant. She lives with her husband and three children of 13 years, 15 years, 17 years in a three bedroom semi-detached house. The property is in close proximity to local schools, transport facilities and shops.

The whole of the ground floor is registered for childminding, including the lounge, small converted playroom, kitchen and first floor master bed/television room and fully enclosed garden.

The childminder is currently looking after three children under five. She may care for no more than six children under the age of eight.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and relaxed at the childminder's home. They enjoy using all of the downstairs area for play/activities and particularly the playroom, which is well resourced with a variety of toys, books and craft materials, carefully selected by the childminder. The childminder is helped by an assistant, who helps her care for minded children. The childminder promotes good health by ensuring high standards of hygiene throughout the house. Children learn about personal hygiene, such as washing hands after using the toilet, as this is reinforced daily by the childminder. Children eat healthy snacks such as fresh fruit, vegetables and cereal bars, provided by the childminder. Fresh drinking water is available throughout the day. Children's favourite fruit are sliced mango and bananas.

The childminder understands that she must gain permission from parents to seek medical advice or emergency treatment for children. Children are kept safe, as the childminder has attended first aid training, which means she can deal with most minor accidents.

Children enjoy fresh air and exercise, by playing in the garden and visiting the local parks, where they like to feed the ducks and climb onto equipment, to extend their physical play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is considered by the childminder as she carefully takes steps to minimise potential risks. Fire procedures are appropriate and smoke alarms are in working order and all windows and exit doors have appropriate locks applied. Children are therefore cared for in a safe and secure environment which is both warm and welcoming. The childminder works with an assistant, who helps her look after minded children. Sleep areas are free from hazards and travel cots or beds are available for children's use.

Children independently select resources from a satisfactory range of toys on display in converted play room. All equipment is checked regularly and meets safety standards appropriately. Children are therefore given the opportunity to make some choices and enjoy a variety of different play experiences safely. Young children take part in simple fire evacuation procedures.

Children are protected as the childminder has adequate knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, including the signs and symptoms of abuse. The children's well-being is fostered, but the childminder does not always complete the register, noting arrival and departure times of children in her care. However, this is noted , in her weekly accounting system. The children feel safe and happy at the childminder's and she gives them her fullest attention and care at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has built strong relationships with the children and frequently spends time playing with them. She is keen to recognise and praise children's achievements. The children particularly enjoy moving from one room to another with rooms interconnecting and resources arranged in each, for children to access. The children feel secure and valued by the childminder

who listens to their individual needs and responds on a consistent basis. Children show a great deal of interest as the childminder reads them stories they enjoy. For example, they cuddle up to her, turning the pages and pointing at pictures and communicating with her as she asks them questions and draws them into the story more.

Children learn and enjoy meeting others in the local community, such as the playgroup, where younger children become accustomed to interacting with both adults and other children. Children are given opportunities to explore resources such as small world toys, a variety of books, together with drawing and writing materials. Visiting the library is a regular activity for children, where they enjoy choosing their books, under careful guidance of the childminder. Children are offered praise by the childminder, as they position pieces of puzzles into the correct places of the jigsaw. Children can often make choices about their activities and there are many opportunities for child-initiated activities, such as playing with construction blocks, abacus and simple board games. Children are settled and gain sufficient stimulation in play, from both the childminder and her assistant.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into the home and feel settled as they fall easily into their routine of choosing their own toys and activities with support from the childminder. Children's individual needs are met effectively as the childminder has found out about their particular interests and daily routines. Children are offered a range of resources which reflect diversity and difference, such as books which display images of children and adults from different cultural backgrounds. Children also watch television which highlights positive experiences and differences across the wider community. She is happy to look after children from a cross-section of the community and is happy to care for children with learning difficulties, if appropriate training was required.

Children are given opportunities for free play and are content to make their own choices and decisions regarding resources and move freely from one room to the other with ease under close supervision of the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a comfortable family environment, where space and appropriate resources are suitably organised to promote their safety, welfare and learning. The childminder organises her day to ensure that children enjoy play experiences, both indoors and outside the setting. She also maintains regular daily routines which enable children to feel safe and secure in their surroundings, together with maintaining the correct adult/child ratios. The childminder has attended the appropriate training to ensure she provides a satisfactory level of childcare provision, along with her assistant. Children feel at home and are confident to initiate their own activities and occupy themselves during free play. Children are safeguarded, as the childminder maintains basic policies and procedures required, for the running of her provision. The childminder has sufficient knowledge of the National Standards to ensure children's safety and welfare is met. Children relate well to the childminder and are content in a warm and friendly environment.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection smoke alarms in full working order and evacuation plans in place, so children are made safe.

Since the last inspection the childminder has written documentation about the more recent complaints procedures, which means children are protected.

Since the last inspection the side door in play room and upstairs windows have been secured and the sewing machine stored away from childminding area, so children are safeguarded.

Since the last inspection the children are being taken to a local play group where they can socialise more within the local community.

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):

- complete attendance register by noting the arrival and departure times of all children
- ensure written consent is given by parents for urgent medical advice or emergency treatment

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