

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY315770
Inspection date	12 August 2008
Inspector	Patricia Dawes
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 2007. She lives with her husband and five children aged 21, 18, 17, nine and six years in a house in Oldbury, West Midlands. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house and outdoor playhouse are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She is currently minding six children on a part-time basis. She takes the children to the local carer and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual care needs are appropriately met and there are acceptable procedures in place to protect them from illness and infection. Sick or injured children are appropriately cared for because parents are informed that the childminder cannot care for children if they have a contagious illness. Accident and medication records are in place. However, the childminder has

not sought written parental consent from parents for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice. This has the potential to compromise children's health in the event of an accident occurring. Therefore, children's welfare is not fully protected. Young children are beginning to learn about their own personal hygiene and how to keep healthy as the childminder offers them wet wipes after nappy changing to encourage good practices.

Children's individual dietary needs are effectively met, as these are discussed with parents and specific dietary needs are recorded. The childminder does not provide meals or snacks. However, she does ensure that children are able to access their lunchboxes and drinks appropriately throughout the day. Children sit together at the table at mealtimes to enjoy their food and develop skills and social interaction.

Children enjoy varied opportunities to experience physical activity and develop their skills. The childminder has a purpose built playroom at the bottom of her garden which allows children the freedom to choose indoor or outdoor activities. They regularly visit the local carer and toddler group where they access larger play equipment and activities such as a climbing frame, bikes and sit and ride toys. All of this contributes to their health and helps them to develop control of their bodies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming, clean and safe environment where most risks have been identified and minimised. However, the patio area in the garden is un-even and potentially poses a risk to children's safety when they access outdoors. Children's awareness of safety issues is developed through every day activities such as practising evacuation procedures and learning to cross the road safely.

There is a range of acceptable equipment in place which children are able to use safely and freely access. All fire equipment such as smoke alarms are in place and regularly checked. The premises are secure and children are able to move around safely, freely and independently within the home. There are effective procedures in place for the safe arrival and collection of children. Procedures for outings are clear and simple rules such as staying close to the childminder by holding hands or onto the buggy ensure children's safety.

The childminder demonstrates a competent knowledge and understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and of Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. However, she is not aware of what to do in the event of allegations made against either her or other people in the household. This means children's welfare is not fully safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and interact positively with the childminder, seeking her out to share experiences of their play, for example, when playing with 'Small World' figures. Younger children's interest and learning is developed as the childminder provides a good balance between active play and relaxing activities, such as looking at books together. She actively encourages them to share toys with each other to help build positive relationships.

Children's confidence and self-esteem are boosted through the consistent interaction of the childminder. They appear comfortable, happy and settled in the childminder's home. They have

a relaxed relationship with the childminder and relate well to each other. Children benefit from her gentle approach as she begins to develop a good rapport with them. She reassures them, encourages their language development through chatting and offering lots of cuddles, positive praise and encouragement. As a result, children's individual needs and routines are well met, their enjoyment and learning is fostered and encouraged.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Regular discussions with parents ensure that their individual needs are recognised and met appropriately. Children's knowledge and understanding of the wider world is fully promoted as they are able to freely access resources and activities which reflect positive images of diversity.

Children respond to clear behaviour management policies and strategies such as reinforcing positive behaviour and clear and consistent boundaries. Strategies are shared with and understood by parents, which ensures consistency between home and minding environments. Methods of behaviour management are appropriate to individual children, children's age and stage of development.

Children's individual needs are appropriately met. Good partnerships with parents mean that children are well settled with a familiar and trusted adult and separate happily from their parents. They are cared for in accordance with their parents wishes and information is shared with parents on a daily basis through verbal discussion. A written procedure is available giving contact details of the regulator. However, there is no format available to log complaints. Therefore, parents are fully informed of factors that potentially affect their children's well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder demonstrates a competent knowledge of childcare and is enthusiastic about developing her childcare skills and knowledge to ensure she is up to date in her practice. She constantly supervises the children to ensure they are well protected in her home from non-vetted persons. The childminder acts appropriately to ensure that the regulator is fully informed of any significant events or changes in her household or service.

Children benefit from a very calm and caring childminder who clearly enjoys spending time interacting and supporting children's individual needs. She organises her home, space and resources well to provide a stimulating and child-friendly environment. Children are appropriately supported as they take part in a range of appropriate activities, which encourages learning through play and assists their individual development well.

Most documentation which contributes to the children's health, safety and welfare is in place and regularly reviewed. Documentation is safely stored to maintain confidentiality whilst still being easily accessible in an emergency. Children's records and parental contracts are updated on a regular basis. This helps to form a positive relationship with parents to promote children's care learning and play.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration, 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 have procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and to keep a record of complaints and their outcome.

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):

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- assess the risks to children in relation to the garden and take action to minimise these
- further develop knowledge and understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures
- keep a record of complaints relating to the national standards and any action taken

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