

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY357910
Inspection date 22 May 2008
Inspector Karen Marie Tervit

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?

The childminder has been registered since 2007. She lives with her husband and young child in Willington. Their home is within walking distance of shops, schools and pre-school facilities. The childminder is registered to care for five children and is currently caring for one child on a part-time basis. Minded children have access to the whole of the childminder's home. There is a rear garden available for outdoor play. Family pets are three cats.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a warm and welcoming family home where they begin to learn the importance of good hygiene throughout their daily routines, for example, babies have their hands wiped for them before eating. The childminder has effective nappy changing routines in place. A current first aid certificate and the effective recording of all medication and accidents

promotes children's health and wellbeing. The childminder also has written parental consent to obtain emergency medical treatment in place, to further safeguard children's good health.

Parents currently provide all of the children's food and drink, with the childminder supplying occasional treats. Sample menus are in the process of being produced to be shared with parents and the childminder ensures that she is aware of any dietary needs of the children through discussions with them. Children have constant access to drinks throughout the day, ensuring that they do not go thirsty.

Children enjoy a good range of fun activities which contribute to their good health. For example, they visit local groups and play areas and enjoy daily walks in the local environment. Such activities promote children's physical development and help them to gain increasing control over their bodies. The childminder has appropriate procedures in place for children to sleep, this ensures that children are able to rest or be active according to their individual needs and parents' wishes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe and secure environment where risks are identified and minimised. As a result, they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Children are kept safe due to a combination of close supervision by the childminder and appropriate safety procedures, for example, low-level sockets are covered and safety gates are in place. Working smoke alarms and an appropriate fire evacuation procedure are in place to further promote children's safety. Basic details of this are recorded. The childminder ensures that all toys are clean, safe and suitable for the age and stage of development of the children.

Children are kept safe on outings as the childminder has good procedures in place. Young children are securely strapped into pushchairs or appropriate car seats. The childminder implements a range of effective safety procedures for outings, for example, carrying a mobile telephone. Written parental consent is in place, ensuring children's welfare is safeguarded.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection and her responsibilities in this area. She is confident about the signs and symptoms to be aware of and procedures to follow should she have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Even though children have not been attending for very long they quickly settle and are happy at the childminder's home and choose from a wide range of toys and resources. The childminder plans a broad range of stimulating and interesting activities for the children which are purposeful and promote their learning and development. She has developed close and caring relationships with the children which helps to increase their sense of trust and further develop their sense of belonging and self esteem. The childminder knows the children well and as a result she is able to link activities to the children's interests, for example, the garage and cars are always accessible as they are favourite items. Even very young children develop good concentration skills as they play with the stacking cups.

Children benefit from good opportunities to develop their fine motor skills as they press buttons on musical toys. They clap their hands excitedly as they look for approval from the childminder.

Children enjoy a good range of activities, which contributes to their development of imaginative and creative skills, such as drawing with the crayons or enjoying the texture of play dough. The childminder involves herself totally in the children's play, helping and encouraging the children to make recognisable sounds. She makes good use of open-ended questions to help children to think about what they are doing, encouraging their responses and extending their play. The childminder has a good knowledge of the frameworks which support young children's learning and uses these in her practice to promote good outcomes for children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have good opportunities to learn about their local community, for example, they go for walks in the locality, visit the shops and regularly attend Sure Start sessions. Children have access to a satisfactory range of resources and activities, which promotes their understanding of the wider world, and plans are in place to develop these further. The childminder has a positive attitude towards providing an inclusive environment for all children and is willing to work closely with parents and other professionals.

Children are valued and treated equally by the childminder who knows them well and is committed to meeting their needs. For example, she manages her time well to ensure that all children have one-to-one time with her, where she can focus on their development and individual preferences. The childminder develops children's self esteem through praise and uses age appropriate techniques to discourage inappropriate behaviour, for example, distraction.

Children are secure and settling well at the setting, as the childminder has good relationships with their parents, who speak very highly of the care and development that the childminder provides. She ensures that parents are verbally informed about their children's day. The childminder also gathers as much information as possible from parents in order to meet the children's individual needs. This ensures continuity of care for the children is given a high priority. Parents know how to complain.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for and feel at home in an organised environment that keeps them safe and secure. Toys and resources are organised effectively, enabling children to access them independently and make free choices about their learning and play.

Documentation is organised well and most records are up to date and stored securely to promote confidentiality. However, the record of attendance does not always show exact times of arrival and departure. There is a comprehensive range of written policies and procedures in place which underpin the childminder's good practice. The childminder has benefited from recent training, including a current first aid course and a briefing on the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder has a very good understanding of child development and is committed to further training in order to promote the care and development of the children. She is currently doing a home-based childcare qualification. Her certificate of registration is clearly displayed.

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

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 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 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 the daily record shows hours of attendance.

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