



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	313721
Inspection date	10 November 2005
Inspector	Lindsey Pollock

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 2001. She lives with her parents and her two brothers. Their home is situated close to local amenities including shops, parks, schools and nurseries. The ground floor is used for childminding purposes. There is a garden available for outdoor play.

She is registered to care for six children under 8 years at any one time and works alongside her mother who is also a registered childminder. There are currently five children under 8 years on roll who attend on a full or part time basis.

The family have a cat, a bird and fish as pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean and well maintained home. The childminder's good understanding of health and hygiene guidelines procedures ensures children stay healthy. They access good opportunities for physical play including walks, use of bikes and other outdoor equipment and particularly enjoy playing ball games. Flexible routines allow time for quiet play and rest, enhancing children's wellbeing.

Children are learning good personal hygiene through consistent routines and positive role modelling. They know when to wash their hands and are beginning to understand themselves how to prevent the spread of infection. Effective policies, good relationships with parents and relevant training ensures correct procedures are followed should a child become ill whilst in the childminder's care.

A healthy balance of meals and snacks ensures children are well nourished. The childminder is well aware of children's dietary needs, likes and dislikes and uses this information to provide meals children enjoy. All children have regular drinks at snack times and confidently ask for additional drinks if they are thirsty. They are beginning to understand about healthy living and the importance of nutritious food and exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure environment. All required safety equipment is in place to protect children. Potential hazards are identified and steps taken to minimise risks, for example, children are unable to access the kitchen area. Steps are taken to ensure the garden is fully secure when used by children. Equipment is kept in a clean, safe condition.

Children move around the environment with confidence; they are given safe opportunities to develop their independence when they select safely accessible toys. They have a growing understanding of how to keep themselves safe both indoors and outdoors. Older children know how to cross roads safely and know not to talk to strangers. Their understanding of what to do should an emergency occur in the childminder's home is raised by regular practice of the emergency evacuation procedures.

Children are well protected because the childminder fully understands her role in child protection. She has completed relevant training and feels very able to take appropriate action if she is concerned about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Warm and trusting relationships have been developed between the childminder and the children in her care. She listens to them and asks them questions to stimulate their imagination and extend their thinking. Younger children's communication skills are developing well. They are very confident around the childminder and happily approach her to share their toys and books.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and are eager to participate in the wide variety of activities provided. These offer appropriate challenge for their age and stage of development. The childminder is aware of the Birth to three matters framework to support children in their earliest years but has not yet implemented this. Children are interested in and want to play with what is available. Art and craft work completed by the children is displayed in the playroom to ensure children are aware their efforts are recognised and valued.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well settled in the friendly and welcoming environment. Their behaviour is good, due to appropriate support and consistent behaviour strategies being implemented. Children are learning right from wrong and are starting to take responsibility for their own actions. A positive approach to behaviour management raises their self-esteem and confidence and helps them to feel good about themselves.

The childminder's positive approach to equal opportunities actively contributes to children's attitudes to the wider community. Some resources and activities are available to help raise children's awareness of diversity. Children are encouraged to appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences.

Trusting partnerships have been established with parents to help promote children's wellbeing, development and progress. Information is shared on a daily basis. Written permission has not been obtained for taking photographs and the written permission obtained regarding transportation of children is not clear. Parent's knowledge of their child's needs and interests is actively sought prior to a placement commencing and on a regular basis throughout their time in the childminder's care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is committed to developing her practice. She actively seeks ways to enhance the quality of care received by children and has completed several relevant courses including first aid training since her registration.

Children feel at home and relaxed in the well-organised environment and are

confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Time is used well and required ratios are maintained resulting in children receiving appropriate support and their needs being met effectively.

Records, policies and procedures are in place and most are kept appropriately. All records are shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and the activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children cared for.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has developed her understanding of the steps to be taken to promote the welfare of children with special needs.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. 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):

- continue to develop activities for the younger children by using the Birth to three matters framework
- obtain appropriate written permission from parents
- ensure an accurate record is kept of the time of children's attendance.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk