

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 316883
Inspection date 04 August 2008
Inspector Sandra Elizabeth Williams

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 was registered in 1997 and lives with her husband in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding apart from the dining room. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear of the property for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding eight children aged from 18 months to 11 years. She lives close to local schools, shops and other useful amenities. The childminder attends local toddler groups. The family has two dogs.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She holds a National Nursery Examination Board qualification and a National Vocational Qualification Level 3 in Childcare and Education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because there are good procedures in place that minimise the risk to children of cross infection. The childminder is very conscientious about good hygiene practices and ensures the children wash their hands thoroughly before they have their snacks and meals. When the children cough, the childminder reminds them to put their hand over their mouth to prevent the spread of germs. Children's health needs are well catered for because the childminder has a well equipped first aid kit and has undertaken first aid training.

Children are learning about the importance of healthy eating because the childminder encourages them to eat nutritious fresh food. They enjoy a wonderful choice of attractively presented fruit for their mid morning snack. For their lunch, they really enjoy making their own pizzas and choosing their own toppings from a healthy choice of peppers, sweet corn, mushrooms, cheese and ham. Thorough procedures are in place to ensure that any information regarding children's individual dietary needs are known. The childminder has a very good knowledge of the children's individual requirements as she has been minding many of them for several years, since they were babies.

Children have many opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise as they play in the garden where they have a variety of activities to choose from. They particularly enjoy sports days, which are arranged by the childminder and her colleagues in the local area. The children enjoy competitive races, such as three-legged races and sack races, and the winners are presented with certificates. The children also enjoy going for walks and playing football in the nearby park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children stay safe because they are cared for in a safe and homely environment. The childminder has recently moved house and has undertaken a risk assessment of the premises. This covers all of the safety requirements and has been done thoroughly as the childminder is very safety conscious. Children are able to explore with confidence and move about safely as the childminder has made sure that there are no hazards or risks to their safety and well-being. Children benefit from a wide range of play equipment, which is age appropriate for all children attending. They have the opportunity to play outdoors in a safe and secure area, which is also well equipped. The children learn to keep themselves safe as they understand the need to stay clear of the oven because it gets hot.

Children are kept safe on outings as the childminder has a good understanding of safety procedures. For example, she always takes out a mobile phone, parents' contact details, a first aid kit and drinks. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of potential signs of abuse and neglect, and has a satisfactory understanding of where to report any child protection issues. However, she has not yet undertaken the safeguarding children training to further enhance her knowledge in this subject.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and secure in their environment because they have good relationships with the childminder. Many of the children have attended the childminder's home for many years and have established good relationships with their peers. Children benefit from the range of interesting activities, which are age appropriate. They enjoy playing board games, such as Ludo, which helps them to take turns and be patient. It also helps with their counting skills. Children are also encouraged to learn numbers and letters because the childminder displays them attractively around the room.

Children enjoy regular outings to the toddler group where they socialise with other children and childminders which helps them to develop their social skills and confidence. They also enjoy trips to places of interest, such as the wild animal park, to see and learn about a wide range of animals.

The childminder has undertaken training in Early Years Foundation Stage and has started to collate documents for recording children's learning journeys. She currently records information in diaries; however, she has not, as yet, completely developed her systems for planning activities and recording each child's individual needs and development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to develop positive attitudes about the wider world as they learn about different cultures and religions. They enjoy tasting Chinese food at Chinese New Year and practise their fine motor skills by attempting to eat their food with chopsticks. They also make masks and lanterns to celebrate a variety of festivals. They learn about their own community as they attend local facilities and visit local places of interest. They learn about people in their community who help them. For example, the childminder arranges for the fire brigade and the community police officers to visit them and talk to the children about safety issues.

The childminder has a good understanding of age appropriate behaviour management methods, which the children respond well to. Children understand what is expected of them and respond well to praise for good behaviour and individual achievements. For example, the childminder praises them when they wash their hands before mealtimes. The childminder is aware that some children have learning difficulties. If she had any concerns about the children in her care, she would sensitively discuss issues with the parents and provide the necessary support for the children.

Children benefit greatly from the very positive partnership that the childminder has developed with the parents. The childminder has put together a selection of policies about her practice that she discusses with the parents. She also displays useful information on the wall, such as menus, certificates and topic plans. Children's individual needs are respected by the childminder and much effort is made to ensure that the parents' wishes are adhered to in order to meet the children's individual requirements.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder's day-to-day management of the provision is good. Children are relaxed and settled in the childminder's care due to her thorough attention to detail. Children's play opportunities are well supported by the way that the childminder organises the premises, thus allowing children to move about easily and make choices. The childminder's commitment to training and keeping up-to-date with current childcare practices enhances the quality of care provided for the children. Children's needs are effectively supported through the childminder's very well organised recording systems. Records and documentation regarding the welfare of children are in place and meet the required standard. Documentation regarding the learning and development of children has not yet been fully developed.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was agreed that the childminder would ensure that the contents of the first aid kit are up-to-date and that the fire blanket is accessible in the kitchen. These recommendations have been satisfactorily met therefore improving the level of safety for the children in her care.

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 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):

- develop knowledge regarding the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures
- develop the planning of activities and play opportunities to meet children's individual needs and keep a record of their development and progress

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