



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY286788
Inspection date	16 November 2005
Inspector	Christine Holmes

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 2004. She lives with her partner in a house that is within walking distance of local schools, shops and parks. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. First floor rooms are not used. There are two fully enclosed garden areas available for outside play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds a recognised early years qualification. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for very well in a clean, welcoming environment, where they learn the importance of simple good health and hygiene practices through daily routines. They learn, for example, to use tissues to keep their noses clean and to wash hands before meals and after toileting to remove germs, using their own towel to dry their hands. These good practices also reduce the risk of cross infection. Children's health is promoted successfully because the childminder maintains and implements effective, well written policies and procedures, such as excluding children with infectious illnesses so that others are not affected. All toys, furniture and equipment are kept clean which further promotes children's good health.

Children are well nourished. They enjoy meals and snacks that are healthy and nutritious. The childminder has a good awareness of special dietary requirements; therefore children's individual needs are met well according to the wishes of parents. Children are able to access a drink throughout the day, provided in their own individual beakers. Healthy eating projects contribute significantly to children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle.

Children enjoy a balanced range of physical activities outdoors. Activities such as riding push along toys and nature walks within the local community contribute to their good health and helps develop control of their bodies. Children are able to rest according to their needs as the childminder provides an area where they can sleep safely and undisturbed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe and secure in the childminder's home. They are able to move around the house and garden freely and safely because the childminder is vigilant at all times to ensure hazards are minimised. This reduces the risks of accidental injury to children. Children are involved in practising emergency evacuations and are developing an awareness of road safety which helps them to protect their own well-being.

Children are provided with a wide range of good quality furniture and play equipment suitable to meet their different needs. Children are able to self-select from a range of toys and resources. This effectively develops their independence.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures and is aware of her role and responsibilities to protect children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are progressing well because the childminder has a good understanding of child development and how she can help children to learn. Children benefit from having their play extended to meet new challenges and individual records of their current achievements are used to move their development forward. Children are beginning to make sense of the world and express their ideas as they take part in a diverse range of exploratory and multi sensory experiences. Throughout the day children are given meaningful praise which helps them to become confident.

Children settle and play well at the childminder's house because she is able to give them appropriate support and shares her time well between them. Children develop positive relationships with each other and with adults. They are encouraged to understand their own needs and are beginning to respect the needs of others. Children are well supported by the childminder who listens to them and encourages conversation. Therefore children are effectively developing their vocabulary and self-esteem and independence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued, respected as individuals and treated with equal concern. Each child's uniqueness is recognised and the childminder takes care to include all children and shares her time appropriately between them. Resources positively represent the children who attend as well as individuals from the wider community. Children visit the local park and surrounding areas to increase their knowledge of the world around them. This helps raise children's awareness of diversity and develop a positive attitude to others.

Children are learning to behave appropriately. There are clear expectations and rules and children feel secure knowing what they can and cannot do. Children are developing good self-esteem. This is because the childminder values the children and rewards their individual efforts through consistent verbal praise and encouragement.

Parents are made welcome in the setting. Information is shared daily, to ensure that they are aware of the provision and the activities that their child participate in. For example, the childminder keeps written daily diary sheets, which detail the children's routines and activities during the day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is very experienced in caring for children and her supportive manner ensures children feel at home and at ease. All policies, records and procedures are used well in practice to promote the welfare, care and learning of all children, according to the wishes of their parents. Children's needs are met effectively through the good use of space and resources. Their care is enhanced by efficient and

effective organisation. For instance, the childminder provides an interesting outdoor play area and activities are well planned to meet the learning needs of individual children. All documentation is shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. All documents are stored securely to protect the confidentiality of both children and parents.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend very well.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaint 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 implement the `Birth to three matters` .

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