



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY216879
Inspection date 14 September 2005
Inspector Olwen Pulker

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 2002. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 7 and 10 in Telford. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five all day and two children over five after school. The childminder collects children from the local school which is within walking distance. The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis. The family has a dog.

The childminder supports children with special needs. She is a member of an approved childminding network and the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a clean and well-maintained home where they learn to follow appropriate hygiene and care routines, for example washing or wiping their hands before meals. The children are protected from the risk of infection through the childminder's awareness of health care matters and the implementation of related policies and procedures. Parents are provided with a list of communicable diseases and children who are ill or infectious are excluded. A no smoking policy is strictly maintained and outdoor shoes are not worn in the house.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. There are outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example as they dig in the sand and ride on wheeled toys. Garden games, regular visits to the local playground and swimming baths improve children's physical skills. Children are able to rest or be active according to their needs.

Children begin to learn about healthy living as they look at books about personal hygiene and visit the childminder's allotment where organic vegetables are grown. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and the children's choices to provide nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder identifies and minimises risks for children indoors. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. However, children's safety is not sufficiently promoted outside as the garden is not always kept free of hazards such as rain water that has collected in seed trays and buckets and not all items of large play equipment are in a good state of repair.

The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder gives a high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety outside the home. They learn about road safety as they walk to and from school and sensitive reminders about not running around indoors help prevent accidents. Children know what to do in the event of a fire as they discuss and practise the emergency evacuation procedure.

Children are well protected from possible abuse or neglect as the childminder has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child

Protection Committee procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have access to a variety of toys, activities and equipment suitable to their ages and stages of development. They are consulted about their preferred activities for the week ahead resulting in the children playing purposefully and gaining enjoyment from what they do. Children are encouraged and supported to initiate their own play and learning ideas, for example taking part in a fire drill prompts them to design fire prevention posters and explore the emergency services through role play. The childminder interacts positively with the children in their daily routines and play, encouraging them to develop a range of skills such as learning to swim, recognise different colours and learning to count as they play with toy cars. Children are developing independence and self-esteem by selecting their activities, learning to feed themselves and taking responsibility for tidying away toys. Children form positive relationships as they share and play cooperatively together. Younger children extend their social skills further by attending a carer and toddler group.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a wide range of books to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. Books are also used to help children become familiar with new situations, for example starting school or going to hospital. Children learn about their local community as they visit places of interest such as farms, industrial museums and the Technology Centre as well as routine outings to the library and local parks.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder meets the children's needs well and adapts activities to meet individual needs and interests resulting in children being actively involved and achieving. Children make themselves at home, confidently deciding what to do and making their needs known to the childminder. Children show care and concern for each other and play together harmoniously. They behave well.

Children benefit from the positive relationships between parents and the childminder. They maintain a good level of communication to provide continuity and consistency to meet the needs of the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are settled and at ease with the childminder. They are confident and able to initiate their own play and learning as they make choices and receive support. Adult to child ratios are good ensuring that the younger children spend individual time with

the childminder to promote their learning and sense of belonging.

Children's safety and welfare is promoted well as the childminder regularly attends training courses to further extend and update her knowledge. She has a current first aid qualification and has recently attended a refresher child protection awareness course.

The required documentation, comprehensive policies and procedures which contribute to children's health, safety and well-being are in place and shared with parents.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to provide parents with information about her childcare practice. She has produced a Welcome Pack containing written policies and procedures that support her good practice and increase parent's awareness of the provision, thereby improving the continuity of care and children's safety and well-being.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 risk assessments of the outdoor play area and equipment are effective in keeping children safe.

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:

