



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY306548
Inspection date	08 November 2005
Inspector	Maxine 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 satisfactory. 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 2005. She lives with her husband and adult child in Werrington, Staffordshire. It is close to local schools, shops and park. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding one child under 5 all day. The family has three dogs, a rabbit and a cockatiel.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in warm, clean surroundings. The childminder follows regular hygienic routines by ensuring that children's hands and faces are cleaned before and after meal times. This means that children begin to develop an understanding of the importance of good hygiene. Children are given opportunities to rest and sleep in line with their individual sleep requirements and parents' wishes. The childminder fully understands the procedures for dealing with accidents and administering medication, however she has not obtained written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for the children in her care. Children enjoy a suitable range of activities, which contributes to their good health. They are able to discover, use and increase their physical control through the good range of resources and activities available.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet and making healthy choices. They are offered a choice of drinks and snacks throughout the day. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and the children's preferences to provide healthy meals that appeal to the children and meet their nutritional needs. The childminder's sound knowledge of healthy eating and good nutrition guidelines contributes significantly to children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder identifies and minimises risks for children in the home, according to the ages of the children currently minded, to provide a safe environment. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder has a suitable understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits. She gives satisfactory priority to promoting children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety outside the home. This means that children learn about potential dangers and develop their knowledge about how to protect themselves from harm.

Children select activities from a wide range of high quality developmentally appropriate resources, which meet safety standards. These are organised effectively in storage containers at an accessible height to encourage independent access. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures, in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee guidelines. This ensures that children are protected from harm or neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and comfortable at the childminder's house. They develop their independence as they choose between a large assortment of toys, books and activities, which are interesting and appealing. Children enjoy listening to stories and receiving lots of individual attention from the childminder. The childminder spends a lot of time talking to babies and is responsive to children's verbal and non-verbal words and actions. This contributes to children's budding communication skills.

Close and considerate relationships provide children with a healthy dependence on the childminder, while enabling them to develop a strong sense of self. Children begin to make sense of the world and express their ideas as they participate in an assorted range of creative and sensory experiences. For example children enjoy making marks on paper with the chunky crayons supplied. Children respond well to the childminder, however they have limited opportunities to interact with other children outside of the setting as visits to carer and toddler groups and playgroups are not regularly planned.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder supplies a wide variety of activities and resources to encourage a positive outlook to the wider world and raise children's knowledge of diversity and their understanding of others. For example, she supplies children with a good selection of toys and books providing positive images of culture, disability, gender and diversity. The childminder ensures that she offers appropriate support and experiences to the children currently in her care and has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of special needs.

The childminder has a clear awareness of behaviour management methods, which helps children to develop their understanding of appropriate behaviour. Children make themselves at home, letting the childminder know when they need a nappy change or feed and accepting comfort when they are tired. The childminder actively seeks parent's views on their child's needs and interests before the child starts at the setting, and on a regular basis during their time there. However, she does not have a suitable knowledge of the procedure to follow if a parent wishes to make a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are comfortable and feel secure in the well-ordered surroundings. Indoor and outdoor space is organised well to provide extensive play opportunities for children. This enables them to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The childminder successfully uses the policies and procedures to support the wellbeing, care and learning of children. She frequently shares information with parents to keep them up to date about her services and their child's development. This promotes stability and continuity in the children's care. Overall, the provision meets the needs

of the range of children being cared for.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- obtain written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- consider ways of enabling children to socialise with other children and adults outside the setting
- improve knowledge of the procedure to be followed in the case of a complaint and ensure that parents are aware of the procedure.

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