



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 223803
Inspection date 31 October 2005
Inspector Margaret Webster

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 1995. She lives with here two adult children. The whole of the ground floor and back bedroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed outside play area. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect. She attends the local toddler groups, takes the children to the local library and the local park.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children under the age of 8 years at any one time. There are 18 children currently on roll.

The childminder has a guinea pig.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They are motivated and interested in a broad range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities which provide good levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. Each day there are outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example there are small bikes, a tractor, hula hoops, bats and balls and skittles available in the garden. They visit the local park and other local places of interest. The childminder makes use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. The younger children join in the activities enthusiastically. Her good understanding about appropriate types of activities and levels of support gives all the children confidence to try out new skills, set their own limits and know when to ask for help.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They comply with health and care routines and they understand why they must wash their hands after visiting the toilet, playing outside and before eating, this reduces the risk of cross contamination and infection.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They are offered drinks regularly through the day. The childminder provides snacks and is willing to cook meals if the parents require this service. Children present were given fruit for their mid-morning snack and a substantial meal at lunch time. The childminder ensures that all the meals are nutritious and are sufficient in quantity. The childminder takes account of the wishes of the parents and the children's choices to provide 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 good.

Children are cared for in a clean, well maintained environment. The good organisation, well maintained toys and safety equipment in place means children can move around safely and freely to independently access available resources from tables, trays and boxes at child height. Safety issues are discussed with and understood by the older children. Children's awareness of safety issues is continuously developed through everyday activities within the home and during outings. The childminder ensures that she has all the relevant children's details and parents' emergency contact details with her when taking the children on outings. Road safety and water safety is explained, and talking to strangers is discussed when going on walks in the local community. This increases the child's awareness of dangerous situations and helps to keep them safe. 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 has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she holds a current first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child development. She takes time to find out what interests each child and what he or she knows and can do and builds on this information to plan and provide a variety of activities and opportunities to help the child progress in all areas of learning. For example she will allow the children to choose what they want to do and she plans around this. The children's art work was displayed in the dining room, this makes the children feel valued and that their work is appreciated. There is a wide selection of books, construction toys, jigsaws, board games, dressing up clothes, dolls and prams, home corner and equipment for imaginative play. Children are motivated and interested in a broad range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities which provide good levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Language and mathematical thinking are promoted through songs, rhymes, counting everyday objects, introducing simple addition and subtraction, reading and story books.

Children also learn by participating in many day-to-day domestic routines and activities as well as from particular activities and resources provided, this ensures the children benefit from a wide and varied range of experiences. For example, helping to set the table for lunch, tidying away toys and activities.

The childminder actively listens and gives her full attention when babies communicate with her. The young child present was smiling and laughing with the childminder, holding his arms out to her and happy to sit on her lap.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. Children are supported and stimulated by a variety of toys, equipment and activities that reflect diversity and equality of opportunity. For example books, jigsaws and dolls. They are offered food from all cultures, however she has a limited knowledge of festivals from other cultures. Children learn about their local community as they visit places of interest such as the local park and walks in the local community.

Children's individual needs are identified and met very well; the parents' requests are recorded and respected. The childminder works collaboratively with parents and, where necessary, other agencies to support individual children. Attractive clear and detailed information is provided to parents about the setting's practice and service provided.

The children are praised when they try to help each other and for their good behaviour. All behaviour is age related and developmentally appropriate. The children respond to clear behaviour management policy and strategies which are shared with and understood by parents. There are effective and consistent ways for dealing with children's behaviour, which includes setting boundaries, using praise rather than criticism, talking to children about their behaviour or distracting them. Attractive clear and detailed information is provided to parents about the setting's practice and service provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease within the well organised environment. The childminder provides an interesting and welcoming environment which reflects most children's backgrounds and the wider community. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of the child. All records, policies and procedures are shared with the parents to keep them informed about the service and their child's activities. The registered person meets the required adult-child ratios. She organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively. She keeps an up to date record of the children's attendance in a daily register recording the times of arrival and departure. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Overall the provision meets the needs for the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to build on the existing good practice regarding sharing information with parents by sharing plans outlining how children learn through play.

She has produced detailed written plans of all the activities she intends to provide and how the children will learn and develop from this planning. This information is available to the parents in her portfolio and in her information booklet. This enables the parent and the childminder to work together and provide a stimulating and enjoyable environment.

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):

- become more aware of festivals from different cultures.

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