



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY290243
Inspection date	24 October 2005
Inspector	Rosemary Linda Tomkins

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 2004. She lives with her partner and their three children aged 22 months, 3 and 5 years in Stafford. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five years and, three children over five years after school, all children are cared for on a part-time basis. The childminder currently supports children with special needs and also supports children who speak English as an additional language. The childminder walks to local schools to take and

collect children. The family has two dogs, five cats, three gerbils, one rabbit and nine guinea pigs.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a comfortable home where they learn the importance of good health practice and personal care. The childminder ensures the children wash their hands after playing outside, using the toilet and before food. Children under two years are cleansed with wipes before and after food. The childminder talks to the children about spreading germs and ensures children follow good hygiene routines such as, not sharing individual towels. This means that children understand how to reduce the risk of infection.

Procedures for accident and medication are very good and clearly explained to parents. The childminder is well qualified to meet children's medical needs in the event of an accident or medical emergency.

Children are provided with a varied range of activities which contribute to their good health. They enjoy playing in the rear garden and have frequent walks to and from school and into town. Children are encouraged to enjoy being outside in fresh air. This ensures children enjoy exercise and helps them to develop physical skills and control of their bodies.

The childminder ensures children are provided with various styles of food prepared from fresh ingredients. This helps them to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They are offered water, milk or diluted juice throughout the day and eat fresh fruit, yoghurt and bread sticks for snacks. The childminder takes account of parents' wishes through discussions and children's individual records to ensure she meets their dietary needs well.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm welcoming home where risks are identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently.

Children understand how to keep themselves safe because the childminder gives high priority to teaching children how to cross the road and use outside play equipment safely. This ensures children are safe both inside and outside the home. However, the childminder has not practised the emergency evacuation plan with the children. This means that children will not be safe in an emergency situation.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment which are very well maintained and presented. The childminder monitors and supervises children's choices to make sure they are appropriate for their age and stage of development. The childminder has all the required procedures and equipment in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted for example, she regularly checks and maintains the outside equipment to ensure children can play safely.

The childminder is aware of her duty to protect children in her care and has good procedures for ensuring children are well protected. This means that concerns about the protection of children will remain confidential and appropriate action taken.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident in the childminder's home. They select their own activities and communicate their needs to the childminder. Children relate very well to the childminder and her family and have developed firm friendships with each other.

Children are able to choose and initiate their own activities inside the home. They enjoy selecting toys in the playroom and garden to progress and develop their independence. Children discover the natural world as they visit the park and pets in the garden and have regular walks to and from school. The childminder ensures children are provided with regular opportunities for outdoor play and develop their independence as they use the swing, slide and sand-pit.

The childminder constantly talks to the children during activities to promote their development and understanding for example, repeating words and familiar phrases and using daily routines to enhance their play opportunities and understanding.

Children are very settled at the childminder's house. They eagerly make attempts at communication to make their needs known. They show pleasure and pride in their achievements with a show of hand clapping and wide smiles.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have an interesting range of activities that promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. The childminder and children play together, watch short periods of children's television and use books and dolls from other cultures to increase awareness of various cultures and festivals. Children have regular walks in the local area and to the shops to provide a sense of belonging in the community.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They have individual attention and conversation with the childminder who ensures children's needs are met as they follow their daily routines. Children show care and concern and play harmoniously together. They behave well and make themselves at home. Children are confident

and have a good level of self-esteem and well-being. They have time to relax, be active and respond well to the spoken word and express opinions on their likes and dislikes. Children with special needs and language development requirements are fully supported and included in all activities to enhance their development and progress

Parents are provided with good quality detailed written information on policies and procedures. The childminder provides examples of planned activities and types of food and shares information verbally with parents on a daily basis. This ensures parents are involved and contribute to the quality of care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is qualified and working towards a National Vocational Qualification at level 3 to enhance her skills and provide exciting opportunities for children.

Children are secure and relaxed in the well organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own learning and play. Good policies and procedures used effectively to promote welfare, care and learning of the children in her care.

All required records are up to date, stored confidentially and available for parents. Parents are regularly informed verbally about their children's progress and activities. In addition, the childminder keeps written daily records on the children's activities and development for parents as required. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

not applicable as this is the first inspection.

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 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 the emergency escape plan is practised with all children

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