



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	258708
Inspection date	19 July 2005
Inspector	Adelaide Griffiths

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 2001. She lives with her partner, one adult child and two children aged eight and three years in Erdington, Birmingham. The whole of the ground floor of the property, including an upstairs bedroom and bathroom, is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five all day and one child over five after school. The childminder walks to local schools to collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/ toddler group on a regular basis.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They are developing awareness of healthy eating with a variety of foods that include fruit and vegetables daily. Children have a choice of drinks and can access beakers or bottles of water throughout the day. All children are given meals in agreement with parents.

Children are gaining an understanding of personal hygiene. They are encouraged to wash hands before meals, following outdoor play and use of the toilet. Younger children have their hands cleaned with wipes and are taken to the bathroom frequently to gain an understanding of using the wash basin. The childminder has good procedures in place to minimise cross infection. These include the wearing of gloves and disposing of nappies hygienically. In agreement with parents children have a spare change of clothing to ensure that they stay clean during the day. Children benefit from well organised procedures with written consent for medication and first aid. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate. A well stocked first aid box is maintained and stored appropriately. Sickness and exclusion policies are in place.

Children have good opportunities for physical play. A large garden is supplied with large play equipment to promote physical skills. Children benefit from daily exercise when they play outside or go to the park. A daily routine of active play is balanced by quiet sessions of reading, watching television for short periods or sleeping.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, bright and welcoming environment. Rooms have a lot of natural light, good ventilation and temperature control. Outside a gazebo is erected to offer shade for children's play during hot summer days to ensure that they are protected from sunburn. There is sufficient space for minded children and toys, resources and equipment are well organised so that children can play freely. Toys are purchased from reputable suppliers and the childminder checks daily to ensure that they remain safe for children's use.

Effective safety measures are in place to protect children. Safety gates are installed to make the stairs and kitchen inaccessible. Other safety measures including a fireguard, socket covers, safety glass, smoke alarms, a fire blanket and a fire extinguisher are in place. Children are gaining a good understanding of fire safety when they participate in monthly, unannounced fire drills. Outside children's safety is ensured by additional measures. Drains are covered; the hedge is well cut; a swing and a slide are stable. Large play equipment is safely stored when not in use and sheds are locked. The security of the garden and premises is well maintained and

doors are kept locked. On outings children travel safely in the childminder's car equipped with booster seats. All safety measures for travelling are in place. When travelling on foot the childminder uses a pushchair for younger children. Older children walk at her side to ensure that they are effectively supervised.

Children are well protected by good arrangements to safeguard their welfare. The childminder is clear about her role and follows Area Child Protection Committee guidelines. Parents are informed of her responsibilities in regard to suspected abuse of children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities. They benefit from a vast selection of toys for all age groups. A wide range of role play equipment is available to stimulate imaginative play. Arts and craft materials, paints, crayons and drawing pads are provided to promote creativity. A good selection of books are available for use at rest periods when the childminder reads to children. Large bins are filled with a wide variety of toys including small cars, farm animals and dolls. An exciting selection of soft toys, pop up toys, push along carts and buckets containing bricks is set out for younger children. Resources including a chalk board, counting frames, a large collection of videos and a computer are available for children's play and enjoyment.

Children have a choice of activities and are clearly extending their vocabulary during play. When they pick up items from the workbench the childminder names each one and children repeat these words. Hammers, screwdrivers, bolts and drills are identified in this manner. Children count to ten without assistance while they place crayons in a box and name colours correctly when they draw.

Outside a good selection of large play equipment is available to promote physical development. Children can practise their balancing skills when they climb on slides. A good collection of bikes and cars provide opportunities for spatial awareness, for example when children stay within the area provided. Younger children benefit from sensory stimulation when they play in the sand pit. Children have free access to a large well furnished Wendy house to encourage imaginative and group play. A child size garden table with attached seating is shaded by a gazebo to enable children to continue enjoying outside play on very hot days if they wish.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are highly valued as individuals. All children are encouraged to play with available resources without gender bias. Girls play with tools on the workbench and talk about screwdrivers and hammers. Children are gaining understanding about diversity when they play with a range of toys that reflect positive images. Children are clearly learning about the wider community on outings to the library and playgroup. At

these venues they participate in activities where they contribute to musical projects involving drumming and making sets of maracas.

The childminder does not have experience of caring for children with special needs. Parents will be consulted regarding individual needs of children taking into consideration how all children can be cared for effectively. She is willing to offer a service to all children including those with special needs.

Children are encouraged to develop independence and gain self help skills. Younger children are taken to the bathroom daily to gain understanding of using the wash basin. Children are free to choose resources and engage in activities selectively. Children interact freely with the childminder and talk to her constantly during their play. They behave well and comply with requests not to throw items across the room. Children are gaining understanding of rewards for good behaviour. Their awareness is raised when the childminder offers praise for complying with her request to sit quietly while awaiting a morning snack.

Good working relationships with parents ensure that children receive well planned care. A wide range of policies are in place to inform parents of the provision. Parents receive a copy of policies including procedures to be followed in the event of complaints. The childminder shares information daily about children's day at time of collection. Arrangements are in place for collecting children when parents cannot do so. Parents notify the childminder well in advance so that she is prepared. The childminder works closely with parents and agree procedures for example, when to start potty training younger children. In a review of the childminding service parents award high ratings to the care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Good organisation of space, routines and activities are in place for the care of children. A portfolio relating to the provision is available for parents to gain information at the introductory visit. A wide range of policies support the childminder in working in partnership with parents. However, the registration certificate is not displayed and daily records of attendance are not accurately maintained.

The childminder is pro active in updating her knowledge of issues in order to maintain good practice. She attends monthly meetings of the National Childminding Association. Arrangements are in place to extend her awareness of issues relating to quality and the Birth to three matters framework. All records are stored securely and the childminder is well informed of procedures relating to the updating and retention of records. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

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 all correct documents are in place & registration certificate is displayed.

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