



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223888
Inspection date	14 July 2005
Inspector	Mary Anne Henderson

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 1997. She lives with her husband and two grown children in a detached house in North Shropshire. Areas of the house used for minding includes all of the downstairs and one bedroom upstairs. There is a good sized rear garden which incorporates a patio area that is visible from the kitchen.

The childminder drives or walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends childminder drop-in and toddler groups and takes children on local outings shopping and to parks.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 5 children from under 2 years to under 8 years old on a part-time basis.

The family have a range of pets including two dogs, three guinea pigs, a rabbit, a hamster,

a mouse and a budgie.

The childminder is an established childminder. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds a level III childcare certificate.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a very good range of activities which contribute to their good health. They are taken on daily walks to help them develop their bodies, for example, they walk and run as they visit the local parks and they also enjoy taking the dogs for a walk. The children have a good understanding of simple hygiene practices as they wash their hands following outdoor play and before eating. Younger children show enthusiasm as they play with their peers and involve themselves in chosen activities that are easily accessible to them.

Children are beginning to have an understanding of a healthy diet. They are provided with drinking water throughout the day and food provided is nutritious and meets children's individual requirements. Healthy food choices include fruit for snack-time and shepherd's pie, fish and vegetables for lunch. Children are encouraged to sit and eat with each other at the table for social interaction and to develop their language and communication skills. Children learn about healthy eating through a range of planned stories and activities and during spontaneous play when children recall what they had to eat yesterday.

Children's individual needs regarding eating and sleeping routines are well met through positive relationships and ongoing exchange of information between the childminder and the parents. This ensures consistency and continuity.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in an environment that is warm, welcoming and safe. Risks are identified and minimised within the home to ensure children are kept safe at all times. This means that the children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and to maintaining safety outside the home, for example, children have looked at how to cross the road safely while waiting at traffic lights. The childminder also involves children in the practice of evacuation.

Children independently select activities from a good range of quality toys and equipment which meets safety standards and children's individual requirements. The children are protected as they are closely supervised during indoor and outdoor play and when choosing what they would like to do. The childminder ensures children access resources appropriate to their age and stage of ability.

Children stay safe because the childminder has the required procedures in place to ensure their welfare is safeguarded and promoted, for example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and she has a very sound 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 outstanding.

The children settle very well soon after arriving. They make themselves at home and they relate to the each other positively and socialise with other children through regular attendance at the childminder drop-in and toddler groups. Younger children show excellent skills in independence as they choose from a broad range of toys, activities and equipment suitable to their age and stage of development. The children enjoy a broad range of creative activities on a regular basis, for example, painting, drawing, dough and cut and glue activities. Younger children show enthusiasm as they play with their peers and involve themselves in chosen activities that are easily accessible to them.

Children show excitement and great interest in what they are involved in. They have access to an excellent range of indoor and outdoor activities and equipment that encourages and extends their physical, creative and intellectual development. Children have a very good sense of community as they go on bus rides and visit places of interest such as the play-bus, local parks, the library and bus rides to town. Younger children are beginning to distinguish between right and wrong and are able to manage their own behaviour. Children in their earliest years are very well supported as the childminder has attended training in the use of the Birth to Three Matters framework. The childminder has begun to implement the framework to support children in her care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children of all ages enjoy access to a very good range of interesting and challenging activities including activities that promote a positive view of the wider world. Free access to a broad range of toys and resources encourages the children to have an awareness of diversity including religion, culture and people with disabilities.

Children effectively learn about their own community as they visit local places of interest such as the shops, toddler groups, and the library. Children's sense of self-esteem and belonging is fostered very well as they see their work and photographs valued and displayed in the play areas.

The childminder supports the younger children with very effective behaviour management strategies such as talking to them calmly and encouraging them to have regard for others and to take turns with the toys. The children are very well behaved and they receive praise throughout the day for positive behaviour.

There are very positive relationships with the parents who are consulted on a daily basis about their child's needs and achievements. The parents have access to a range of policies and procedures to ensure they are kept up to date about the service provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are very well settled and at ease with the childminder in this very stimulating environment. They make themselves at home from the time they arrive, choosing toys from the accessible boxes and making very good use of the indoor and outdoor play areas. Children have time to relax, eat with each other and be active both indoors and in the garden. They respond well to the excellent range of planned and spontaneous activities and outings.

The children achieve well at the setting because the childminder has undertaken training courses and uses her knowledge of how to support children's learning and routines to ensure their individual needs are acknowledged and met. The childminder has achieved a level III qualification in childcare.

Children's needs are well supported through a range of policies that are available to parents and used effectively to promote the health and welfare of the children attending. However, the policies should be updated to ensure they include all elements as outlined in the National Standards and guidance, for example, the behaviour management policy should include sanctions that may be used should bullying occur and the child protection policy should include what will happen should an accusation be made against a member of the household or a visitor, and should also clearly state that Ofsted will be informed.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection the childminder was asked to address one recommendation and one action.

Firstly the childminder was asked to ensure that any recommendations made by the Fire Safety Officer with regard to overnight care are met and the childcare inspector informed of action taken. The childminder considered the action and decided to withdraw her request to provide overnight care, therefore the action no longer stands.

The childminder was also asked to make sure that dangerous substances were made inaccessible to the children. The childminder addressed this by ensuring that the

substances which were accessible in the toilet area were removed and locked away. Children are now kept safe as they no longer have access to dangerous substances at the setting.

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 policies provided to parents are updated to include all elements as outlined in the National Standards and guidance.

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