



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	209356
Inspection date	17 November 2005
Inspector	Lesley Jane Bott

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 has been registered since 1997. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine and eleven years. The house is situated in a cul-de-sac close to Stafford town centre. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently looking after three children on a part-time basis. The childminder attends the local toddler group. The family have two pet guinea pigs.

She is a member of an approved childminding network and is currently a member of

the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is clean and tidy. Good hygiene practices are promoted well. Children are learning about the importance of good health and hygiene through daily routines such as hand washing before meals and after toileting. Established routines are followed and children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs. The effective procedures for sick children ensures that the best interests of all children are met if they are unwell.

Healthy eating is encouraged. Processed and sweet foods are discouraged and children are encouraged to eat fresh fruit and vegetables. Dietary needs are discussed with parents to ensure that preferences are respected and special dietary needs are met. Children's independence is developing and they are confident to ask for a drink when needed. Children are developing physical skills through outings to the park and other local facilities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning the importance of staying safe. The childminder has mostly identified and minimized hazards within the home, although low level glass needs to be protected and the house made safe so children cannot leave unattended. Home safety equipment such as a fire guard is used to ensure that children can play safely. Children are able to choose from toys that are clean, safe and suitable for their purpose. Effective procedures for the evacuation of the building in an emergency help safeguard children. Fire evacuation practices are carried out regularly and a record kept.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. She is able to put necessary procedures into practice if needed and acts in the best interests of the children at all times. There are good arrangements for the collection of children at the end of the day to ensure their welfare is protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder provides a good varied range of activities for the children to choose from. This helps children develop their curiosity as learners and maintains their interest well. Children are excited and enjoy their time at the childminders where they develop new skills. The childminders awareness and good use of the Birth to three matters framework is improving children's achievements. For example they

experience regular baking days and exploration of themselves, through self portraits.

Children are happy and enjoy exploring the easily accessible toys and equipment. They become confident communicators as they share ideas in their play, for instance using musical instruments and singing to improve their communication skills and promote learning.

The childminder interacts well with the children. She is interested in what they say and do and has good relationships with them. This helps children to be settled, happy and confident. Children have opportunities to meet other children and explore the wider environment through weekly visits to local groups and singing group which the childminder runs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder supplies a good 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. The childminder extends her resources through using the local toy library. The children have wide-ranging opportunities to find out about themselves and each other, and to gain knowledge of the wider world through planned activities, visits to the playgroup and local places of interest.

Children are appreciated as individuals, and the childminder meets the children's needs well. Children make themselves at home, confidently choosing activities, requesting drinks and snacks when they want them and independently using the toilet. They increase their self-esteem and confidence as they present their views and make choices and decisions.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has a comprehensive range of policies and procedures that she shares with parents to ensure that the welfare and care of the children is promoted. She keeps all necessary paperwork and information about children secure to maintain confidentiality. The childminder does not have a current first aid certificate. This does not ensure that children are well protected.

The childminder places great importance on developing her knowledge of childcare issues. She has attended a number of courses over the past twelve months, and has started to incorporate 'Birth to three matters' into her practice. This has enabled her to broaden children's experiences and contribute to the quality of care provided.

The childminder's home is warm and welcoming to children and parents. Children's self-confidence is promoted through the display of their art work. There are also posters for children displayed in the playroom to add to the inviting atmosphere. Indoor space is used appropriately to offer children an environment in which they can play freely as well as quiet areas for rest and sleep. Overall the provision meets the

needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- ensure that hazards within the home are protected and children unable to leave the premises
- ensure first aid course is completed

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