



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118491
Inspection date	16 November 2005
Inspector	Michelle Tuck

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 July 1998. She lives with her husband and 2 children. They have recently moved to a 5 bed roomed detached house in Winscombe. The ground floor is used for minding. This includes a playroom for the children and an enclosed garden. The family have a dog which is housed in a separate area to the children during minding hours.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children under 8 years of age, of which 3 may be under 5 including 1 under 1. There are currently 8 children on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and physical development are well promoted through good opportunities to enjoy interesting indoor and outdoor activities. Daily routines include playing in the garden, visiting local toddler groups and going for a walk, which contribute to their good health.

Children are beginning to understand about healthy eating from the childminder who has good knowledge about nutrition and diet. Children benefit from a good variety of healthy home cooked meals. A menu of the range provided is available. Children are also provided with regular drinks to help promote their good health. Children's specific diet needs are recorded and adhered to.

Children's good health is promoted through effective hygiene practices. Children learn the importance of washing their hands especially after using the toilet and before snack times. The childminder keeps vigilant about health issues and talks to the children about germs and other health related topics. Clear reasons are given when the childminder makes requests of the children. For example, for them to keep their socks on in public play areas so not to get infections. Children are protected from cross infection from pets due to good procedures. For example, the dog does not generally use the garden, and the garden is checked before children access it.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move freely and safely around the home as risks have been identified and effective measures put in place to promote children's well being. Children are effectively cared for in rooms that meet their individual needs. For example there is a dedicated playroom where babies and pre-school children have free access to toys and activities. After school older children use the table in the playroom to sit at and make things or use the construction. Safety gates are used successfully to contain the children, and ensure the childminder can still see them to ensure their safety at all times.

Children are well supervised at all times. Children have easy access to a wide range of toys and equipment which is all in very good condition. The playroom is well presented with low shelving to house boxes of toys. Children enjoy sitting on child size furniture which is safe and inviting.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted through the childminder's knowledge of child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and happy with the childminder. The childminder is very knowledgeable about their individual needs and how best to meet them. The interactions between the children and the childminder are warm. Children benefit from the opportunities provided and the support given to them in their play. For example, shopping trips are made interesting as the children help to weigh items bought or they are encouraged to help make choices of what to buy. Children are constantly engaged in conversation with the childminder, she extends their learning by introducing new words or knowledge to them. For example, children are learning about the wider world with access to resources which reflect positive images of diversity as well as sponsoring a child in Malawi. Children learn all about this little girl's life from photographs that the childminder receives, and from discussions with the childminder.

Children develop independence through self selecting from a wide range of interesting and stimulating toys. All children are involved and included. They show a high self esteem promoted by the constant praise and encouragement from the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from effective partnerships between the childminder and the parents. Children's individual needs are understood and well met through daily information sharing with parents. Parents are encouraged to visit as many times as they want to settle their child and share information about them. This ensures as much consistency with their home is offered to each child. Parents are given regular feedback about their child's day and the progress they make. Parents also have the opportunity to read childminding policies and procedures and discuss anything which arises.

Children are happy and relaxed due to the childminders praise and interaction. Babies benefit from appropriate affection and cuddles resulting in them feeling safe and secure in their environment.

Children learn about diversity through opportunities to play with a range of resources that reflect positive images of diversity. Children benefit from the childminders good knowledge of equal opportunities and special needs. Children are all included and treated as individuals.

Children know how to behave, they are confident and have a good self esteem. The childminder leads by example using appropriate behaviour management strategies effectively.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Children are very at home in the well organised environment. The designated playroom enables the children to move around safely and to be independent.

Children benefit from the good organisational skills of the childminder and her knowledge of special needs and equal opportunities. All documentation is well presented and stored appropriately. Written policies and procedures are clear and informative about the care given. Information is shared with parents and regularly reviewed.

The childminder is committed to developing her provision and ensures she keeps up to date with relevant early years issues and is committed to training.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that records are countersigned by parents when medication is administered. All records of medication are now signed for parents.

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 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):

- continue to develop a suitable range of activities for the younger children, for example by introducing the 'Birth to Three' framework.

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