



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112944
Inspection date	09 May 2005
Inspector	Elly Bik-Kuen Wong

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 2000. She lives on her own in a detached property in a village near North Baddesley. There are local amenities such as shops, schools and park close by. The whole of the property is available for childminding but the main areas used are downstairs.

The childminder is registered to mind six under-eights, and currently cares for two school-age children. She has no pets. The childminder can take minded children in her car.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have plenty of opportunities to practise good hygiene during their daily routine. The childminder instils in children an understanding of the importance of cleanliness for preventing diseases, and they show independence in self-care such as hand washing after toilet and before food and drink.

Minded children benefit from regular physical exercise which promotes their health and physical well-being. The childminder attaches much importance to physical activities for children's development. She consistently takes them to the local parks and playgrounds as part of their normal play routine, so that children have access to climbing, sliding and other equipment vital for their co-ordination and balance.

The childminder puts emphasis on healthy eating and regular drinks for children. They know how to communicate their need when they are hungry or thirsty. The childminder takes account of parents and children's preference to provide nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to them. Children can also make their choices as to when and how much they want to eat. This ensures children's good health and well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure manner due to good safety procedures in place for indoor play and outings. The childminder's house is clean, comfortable and well resourced for children's play and learning. Children are able to move around safely and independently indoor as risks have been identified and minimised. A lot of the toys can be accessed by children freely and safely as a result of the careful planning and organisation of equipment.

The childminder gives high priority to teaching children how to keep safe both in and outside the home. Children learn to think before they act, for example, not playing on outdoor structures in the park that are unsafe, even if other children do so.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's good safety awareness; first aid and health and safety training; and confidence with applying appropriate child protection procedures should it be necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder whether they are playing in the home or an outdoor park. She provides good consistency of care while promoting their learning. Children are happy and settled in a secure and stimulating environment.

The childminder varies activities to suit the age and development levels of children, who are always consulted about their choices of play. She also takes advantage of opportunities through daily routines to promote children's learning, for example, during car journeys, meal times and household tasks. Children are able to initiate and engage in satisfying child-led activities and incidental learning. For example, while playing indoor, children sometimes become interested in the birds seen through the patio door, and their learning is extended by her through the use of reference books, discussions and art work.

The childminder varies her levels of support for individual children to promote their emerging independence and creativity. Children spend their time purposefully and engage in a wide range of activities including imaginative role play, creative, physical play and others. Whether they are erecting a play tent, or role playing as shop and shoppers, children develop a wide range of skills and learning through their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children show enthusiasm and perseverance in their play and learning. They are constantly praised and rewarded for their achievement, and this promotes their self esteem and good behaviour. The childminder interacts and engages well with them; listens to what they say, and responds to their wishes accordingly. Their confidence develops also as a result of activities pitched at the right level for individual children.

Children thrive on the childminder's clear boundaries for positive social interaction and behaviour. They learn about good manners; social skills such as sharing and turn taking; and respect for others. Through discussions, books and games children develop positive understanding of differences among countries, cultures and abilities. They are encouraged to show care and concern for one another, and play together harmoniously.

All children are valued and their individual needs being met appropriately because the childminder has good knowledge of their daily routines and special requirements. She has good relationships with parents and shares information effectively. She also relates messages and liaises with the children's schools on the parents' behalf so that the needs of the children are met all round.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder updates her knowledge in childcare by attending training in first aid, health and safety, and heuristic play for babies. Her improved knowledge helps to ensure children's safety and well-being.

The childminder plans and provides a full range of learning opportunities for children. They benefit from both indoor and outdoor play; quiet and physical; planned and spontaneous activities. Resources are well organised and accessible, so children

play happily and develop their confidence and independence.

Policies and procedures are comprehensive, well organised and shared with parents. They are used effectively to promote children's welfare and learning. Although the childminder has not started giving medicines, some documentation relating to their consent can be further developed to promote children's health and safety fully. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved her ability to care for children safely by qualifying in first aid, replenishing the first aid box, and formulating an emergency fire procedure. She was also asked to develop and maintain all required documentation which is now in place (including a complaints procedure), though further enhancement is required.

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):

- Develop further documentation regarding consent for medicines.

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