



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	255038
Inspection date	02 December 2005
Inspector	Karen Cooper

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 1986. She lives with her husband and ten-year-old child in the Smethwick area of Sandwell. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes. There is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The family have a dog and two rabbits.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children on a part time and full time basis. The childminder takes and collects children from the local schools and regularly attends local pre-school and carer and toddler groups with younger children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they are taught the importance of personal care, for example washing their hands after toileting and before eating. The children are appropriately cared for in the event of illness with a verbal policy by which parents agree that children will not be cared for when they have an infectious illness. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and the first aid box is easily accessible. Records are kept of any medication administered to children and any accidents that occur, although consent to administer medication is not sought from parents.

Children are provided with regular drinks and snacks throughout the day. Food is provided by parents, which the childminder ensures is stored appropriately. The childminder is aware of each child's individual dietary needs and ensures these are met.

Children keep healthy and enjoy the benefits of exercise when playing on large equipment in the garden and at the local park. They have easy access to the garden and benefit from flexible daily routines, which allow them to have time for active play and rest that reflects their individual requirements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a range of quality toys and resources, which are checked prior to use. They have access to the ground floor of the property and can safely access the garden. Space is effectively organised to allow the children to play, eat and rest comfortably and the childminder carries out daily visual checks on all equipment to ensure that it is safe and suitable for the children in her care.

Children are cared for in a safe environment as all reasonable steps are taken to reduce the risk of an accident. Appropriate safety equipment is used according to the age and needs of the children attending, including socket covers, safety gate and safety locks. The childminder is mindful of security and has clear procedures to ensure only authorised people collect children. Appropriate fire equipment such as fire blanket and smoke detectors are provided and are regularly checked to ensure they are in working order. However, children do not practise the emergency fire evacuation procedures, therefore do not know where to go to stay safe.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's appropriate knowledge of child protection procedures and of her role and responsibility to protect children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settled and have formed good relationships with the childminder. They are provided with a satisfactory range of activities and experiences that reflect their needs, interests and which help them to make progress in their development.

The children are provided with learning and play opportunities through daily routines and are given freedom to initiate and choose their own activities. They become involved for extended periods in role-play and play well together. Children are helped to develop self-esteem and confidence with the use of praise and the childminder acknowledges good behaviour, which she ensures is highlighted during daily discussions with parents. The childminder takes into account parents wishes and as a result, children are content and receive care consistent with home.

Daily routines are flexible to ensure that the needs of the children are met and toys and resources are rotated on a regular basis to ensure that the children remain interested and stimulated. The children are beginning to develop their independence, as they are able to access most of the toys and resources that are stored at low-level in the playroom. They have regular opportunities to socialise with their peers when visiting local toddler groups and frequently visit the park for more active play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern and the childminder encourages non-stereotypical play. Children have access to a satisfactory range of resources and activities, which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences. Children are valued and respected as individuals and regular discussions with parents ensure that their needs are met. The childminder has had limited experience of caring for children with special needs, although she demonstrates a positive attitude and as a result parents can expect any requests for care to be carefully considered and support sought if necessary.

Children behave well, respond appropriately to the childminder and are secure and happy in her care. The childminder uses a suitable range of positive strategies to manage behaviour, for example, distraction, explanation and praise. The children play happily, making themselves at home and confidently choose the toys that they wish to play with.

The childminder talks to parents on a daily basis to ensure children benefit from a two way sharing of information. However, parents are not made aware of what to do if they have a complaint. Parents are given the opportunity to settle their child gradually into the childminder's home and are regularly consulted about their child's needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensure ratios are met to allow children to receive adequate individual

attention and to offer flexibility of care to suit parent's needs. The children receive continuity of care as a result of the childminder's effective partnership with their parents. Resources and space are adequately organised and monitored to enable children to play and rest in a safe and suitable environment.

Documentation is regularly reviewed and children's records are clear, up-to-date, easily accessible and stored securely. However, children's attendance records are not accurately maintained. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend the setting.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was requested to extend the range of resources and activities which reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability. Children now have access to a satisfactory range of resources and activities, which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences. For example figures, books, dolls and dressing up clothes.

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):

- obtain written permission from parents to administer medication
- develop fire safety precautions within the home, for example, by ensuring that children fully understand and practise the emergency escape plan and display
- improve your partnership with parents by ensuring that they are made aware of what to do if they have a complaint

- ensure children's attendance records are kept accurate and up to date.

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