



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	403743
Inspection date	13 March 2006
Inspector	Sharon Waterfall

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and three children in a house in the Great Barr area of Birmingham. The premises are within walking distance of local shops, schools and parks. The front room, kitchen and first floor bathroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for 5 children under 8 years of age and is currently caring for 7 children aged 6 months to 6 years and for 2 children over 8 years of age. She is registered to work with an assistant and does so only on an

occasional basis.

The childminder collects children from local schools and nurseries. She holds the National Vocational Qualification to Level 3 in Child Care and Education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from policies, procedures and practices that overall promote the importance of a healthy lifestyle. They receive nutritious foods specifically for their individual needs. Healthy foods are encouraged for snacks and care is taken to ensure children eat sufficient amounts for development.

Physical exercise is regularly provided as children walk to and from local schools daily. In addition they attend toddler groups and play areas that extend their use of large physical equipment and enable them to develop skills, such as climbing, balancing and jumping.

Cross infection is limited by the positive hygiene practices of the childminder that aid the children in learning about personal hygiene. Most policies and procedures support children's health and welfare, though inconsistent documentation has led to permission for emergency medical treatment not being held for all children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have sufficient space to enjoy a variety of activities and resources. The environment is welcoming and supportive relationships are being formed with the children and the childminder. Appropriate resources that promote children's development are accessed within the play areas.

Many hazards have been identified and minimised by the childminder, though early warning fire systems are not in place throughout the premises effecting evacuation procedures. Children learn about keeping themselves safe through constant discussions about safety, such as not running inside the premises.

Children are protected from abuse and neglect as the childminder has a sound awareness of issues relating to child protection. She has the correct procedures for reporting any concerns and discusses her duty of care with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to engage in an appropriate range of activities which helps them make progress in most areas of development. They benefit from regular learning and

play opportunities outside the home where they are given frequent opportunities to explore and investigate and to relate to others, for example, the local park and toddler groups.

Within the home the children use their imaginations as they role play favourite characters such as Bob the builder and pretend to fix items with their tools. They are learning through basic conversations about colours and numbers, as they count the wheels on the truck and recognise colours in familiar television programmes.

The children are developing their language skills as they like to talk about their families and events that are important to them. They are able to explore ideas as they relate their knowledge of ducks to their own experiences of swimming and through role-playing meal times at home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for as individuals, with relevant information being continuously gained to support their needs. Affection is shown by the children to the childminder, who returns this care through humour and attention.

In the main, behaviour management techniques support children's self-esteem and their individual achievements. Praise is used to encourage the children in new found skills and development such as potty training. Young children are learning about the concepts of sharing and fairness through frequent reminders.

Consistency of care is encouraged through the open relationship of the parents and childminder. Regular sharing of information supports the children's welfare and care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are able to access resources, explore and play as a result of the organisation of the available space. Their sense of security is fostered through appropriate adult support and a familiar daily routine.

The children's welfare and care is mostly safeguarded through the childminder's record keeping, though aspects of documentation are inconsistent and omit relevant information regarding some of the children. In addition vetting procedures have not been completed within immediate timescales.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection a recommendation was raised regarding children's safety.

The childminder has obtained a fire blanket, which is accessible in the kitchen and improves children's overall safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints reported 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

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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):

- improve fire safety by ensuring a smoke alarm, which conforms to BS EN safety standards is provided on the first floor and is maintained in working condition
- ensure vetting procedures are completed within minimum time scales
- improve documentation to ensure consistent and relevant information is held for each child cared for.

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