



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	257467
Inspection date	27 February 2006
Inspector	Beverly Kemp-Russell

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 has been registered since 2000. She lives with her husband and 3 children aged 12, 10 and 8 years, close to local shops and schools. The whole house is used for childminding purposes. There is a secure garden for outside play used by children under supervision.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 8 children aged from 7 months to 7 years whom attend on both full time and part time arrangements.

The family has two cats, a rabbit, a hamster and a goldfish.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to good health. There are planned outdoor activities to help them develop physical skills and develop body control. The garden is used regularly to ensure children have good opportunities for outside play.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Children follow hygiene routines and their clear understanding of regular hand washing reduces the risk of cross contamination. Children's health is promoted by the childminder holding a current first aid certificate and maintaining some accident records. However, the childminder has not obtained in writing from parents consent to seek emergency medical treatment or advice.

Children's dietary requirements, likes and dislikes are met through the parents and the childminder providing all food for children and by the childminder using appropriate food storage to ensure it is kept fresh and safe.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well-maintained home where risks are identified and minimised. Children are able to move around safely and freely. They access appropriate resources to meet their needs and are happy, relaxed and secure in the homely environment.

Children independently select from a wide range of toys and play resources, which meet safety standards. Children's safety is promoted by the childminder carrying out regular checks on toys and equipment. Children are closely supervised both indoors and outdoors to ensure their safety at all times. Appropriate safety and fire fighting equipment is provided within the home and emergency evacuation procedures are practised with children.

Children's welfare is promoted by all the required procedures and documentation maintained by the childminder. She recognises her responsibilities towards the children in her care and is aware of signs and symptoms of abuse. She understands the procedures to follow to ensure children are well protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and independent and develop self-esteem by the childminder encouraging them to try new activities and giving praise and encouragement. Children select resources which develop their learning such as small world play and construction. Children respond well to the childminder who gets down to their level and follows their lead. Children make their own choices and access a wide range of resources that are age-appropriate and which meet their needs. They experience a good learning environment through activities provided by the childminder. The childminder includes younger children in all activities to develop their skills but she is not making full use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Children's language skills are developed through the effective questioning techniques used by the childminder. Children are valued and the childminder listens and responds to what they have to say. Children feel a sense of belonging and are relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have equal access to play resources and activities and their individual needs are well met, but access to a range of activities and resources that promote anti-discriminatory practice and inform them about the wider world, are limited. The childminder is aware of the information she would need to gather to ensure the appropriate care of children with special needs.

Children's behaviour is good due to the childminder's consistent approach in promoting positive behaviour. Children show respect for themselves and others, encouraged by the childminder setting a good example. Children are calm in response to the childminder's relaxed manner.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. Children's needs are met by daily verbal communication between the childminder and parents. Children are looked after according to parents' wishes and the childminder ensures she is aware of their opinions and attitudes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's needs are met by the way the childminder organises the room layout. Children are able to feel at home and at ease in this environment. Most policies and procedures are comprehensive and promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Parents are kept informed about the service provided by regular verbal communication. 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 knowledge of child protection procedures by ensuring she is aware of who to contact should she suspect a child in her care is at risk to ensure the safety of children. She is aware of meeting the needs of all children and how to adapt her home and resources to ensure all children are included but has yet to obtain a copy of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 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):

- obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure that the 'Birth to three matters' framework is used effectively
- ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice

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