

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	257202
Inspection date	05 December 2005
Inspector	Jennifer Turner
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 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and four years. They live in a house in the Kings Norton area of Birmingham. The house is within walking distance of shops, schools and parks and is accessible by bus. The whole of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under the age of eight years and is currently caring for eight children under the age of eight years who all attend on a part-time basis. The childminder attends a local toddler group and takes children to a local playgroup. She is a member of the National Childminder Association. (BCMA). The childminder is a member of the Birmingham Childminder Inclusion Programme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a wide range of outdoor play with vigorous activities a regular feature of their play. They use a range of large and small apparatus as part of their daily routine to develop their physical development. They enjoy being active and have a positive attitude to exercise.

Children understand the importance of good hygiene and personal care through effective routines set by the childminder, and they know the importance of washing their hands after toileting or handling pets. The childminder has excellent practices to maintain children's health. She is diligent and consistent in her cleaning and food handling routines and ensures she sustains high levels of hygiene in order to minimise the risk of cross infections and to protect children's health.

Children benefit from a healthy diet, because the childminder has implemented some excellent systems to encourage children to have a balanced diet. Wherever possible, they are encouraged to share responsibility for decisions about their health and are given opportunities to independently choose from a variety of health snack options. Children are encouraged to eat home grown vegetables and fruits are provided for them daily.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment that is secure and generally safe for them to play in. They benefit well from the childminder's good awareness of safety issues and her vigilance in recognising potential hazards. Although the timescales for recording minor accidents are not sufficiently maintained.

Children use a wide range of good, suitable, safe toys and equipment which are stored to allow them to access them safely and independently, because the childminder ensures that they are checked and cleaned regularly. Children are kept very safe when out with the childminder who talks to them about the safe use of the road and has obtained the consent of their parents to take them out.

Children's welfare is very well protected because the childminder ensures that everyone who has regular contact with them is vetted and that her knowledge of first aid is kept up to date. She has completed training on child protection and is fully aware of her role and responsibility to protect them from possible abuse or neglect and holds all relevant documents regarding child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's house and are given good opportunities to independently choose and select from a variety of toys, books and activities which they enjoy. They play happily together and are beginning to learn how to share and take turns from the wide range of activities stored to encourage them to initiate their own play. They are provided with a good range of interesting activities and experiences which help them to acquire new knowledge and

skills. The childminder recognises when children are developing and introduces new resources to stimulate them and help them progress in their development.

Children are supported well in their play and are given individual support and attention by the childminder. Children enjoy listening to stories and playing with a range of musical instruments. All children enjoy creative activities as they draw, paint or model with dough and the childminder provides good opportunities for older children to develop skills in preparation for starting nursery. The children benefit from the childminders knowledge and support from the quality assurance scheme and her good knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Children are developing good social skills as they attend groups or go on visits to places of interest with the childminder. They are consistently praised by the childminder, who supports in developing their self-esteem and confidence. She spends time listening to the children and engaging in their play, whilst building good relationships with them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued, respected as individuals and are treated with equal concern, because the childminder has a good understanding about equality issues, as well as experience of working with children with special needs. She ensures that all children's needs are met effectively and that they have a positive attitude to others, through the use of positive images resources and activities that raises children's awareness of the wider world.

Children behave well and respond to the childminders clear and consistent expectations, because the childminder respects them, gives them opportunities to voice their opinions and includes them in devising rules about how they should behave. She praises children for positive behaviour by telling children how proud she is of them when they do something well.

There is a good partnership with parents that encourages a healthy working relationship and helps to support children well. Parents are kept well informed of their children's progress, development and daily activities through written feedback and daily discussions. Children have their individual needs met well as the childminder uses their entry profiles to gain an understanding of where they are in their development, what they like to do, and to plan the next steps in their development.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's needs are met well due to the effective organisation of space and resources, this has a positive impact on the children's learning and development. There are a number of policies and procedures in place to ensure children are well care for, these cover aspects of the childminder's practice and generally these are reviewed and updated.

The childminder ensures that children are supervised at all times and that persons with access to the children, are suitably vetted and authorised to collect them. Overall, the childminder's commitment, enthusiasm and enjoyment of what she does is reflected in the positive impact her service has on meeting the needs of the children in her care. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder agreed to up-date the complaint procedures with the contact details of the regulator. This has been addressed and the complaints procedure now contains the required details.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- ensure all accidents are recorded promptly after an incident

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk