



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	307335
Inspection date	23 May 2005
Inspector	Susan Janet Lee

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 1989. She lives with her partner and 3 children aged 5, 14 and 18 in a detached property in Boothstown.

The hall, lounge, kitchen/dining room, conservatory and bathroom facilities on the ground floor are used for childminding purposes. There is a rear garden available for outdoor play. The family have a cat as a pet.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children at any one time and she is currently caring for three children who attend on a variety of

placements.

The childminder is able to take and collect children from the local primary school and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well maintained home. The childminder exercises good hygiene practices and as a result, children develop a good awareness of the importance of personal hygiene, for example, they know when they need to blow their noses and are familiar with routines, such as washing their hands before snacks and meals.

The childminder provides meals and snacks that are nutritious, as a result children's well being and development are well promoted. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and the children's preferences to provide snacks and meals that meet appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs. Children are becoming aware of healthy living, for example, they have a sliced apple for a snack and a child says "apples are good for you" and drinks are readily accessible; enabling children to have a drink when they are thirsty.

The children enjoy a variety of outdoor activities that contribute to their good health and improves their physical skills as the childminder uses the garden and trips to a local park and a working farm. A child talks about a trip to the park, where she enjoyed playing on the swings and the slide, she also talks about a visit to the farm and recalls her experience of riding on a donkey.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder takes positive steps to minimise hazards and she gives priority to supervising children as they play, consequently, children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder actively encourages children to become aware of safety, for example, sitting down when eating, not running in the house, how to cross the road and staying together when on trips, as a result children become aware of safety in the home and on outings.

The childminder selects resources and equipment of good quality and that meet safety standards, minimising risks to children.

The childminder has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee guidelines, ensuring that children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder builds warm relationships with the children. She meets children's individual needs well and offers lots of positive physical contact by means of hugs and cuddles. Children sit on the childminder's knee when she reads a story to them; as a result, children settle well and they are happy, settled and confident in the childminder's care and they relate well with members of the family and their peers.

Children are purposefully engaged in a wide range of activities which contribute to their development, for example, small world activities, construction, foam shapes, puzzles, books, chalks and easel, magnetic letters, interactive toys and dressing up. They develop choice and independence as they are able to select toys of their choice and move around freely.

The childminder sits with the children as they play and interacts with them to support them in their play and learning. She guides the children appropriately and children have lots of opportunities to learn new skills and consolidate their learning, for example, the childminder helps a child to complete a puzzle and congratulates her achievement, the child then chooses to do the puzzle again and successfully completes it, much to her delight.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder forges good working relationships with parents at an early stage and works closely with them, as a result children's individual needs are recognised and promoted.

Children have access to a growing range of resources that reflect diversity, they interact with children with special needs at a childminder drop in group and recently celebrated Chinese New Year at the local parent toddler group, as a result, children are gaining an awareness of the wider world.

The childminder values and respects children as individuals and involves them in making decisions, for example, what to have for lunch; as a result, children develop self assurance. The childminder encourages children to share and take turns, consequently, children are beginning to show care and concern towards one another and play together in harmony.

The children are becoming aware of other living things, for example, during a recent visit to a farm, children were able to hold and pet rabbits and feed baby deer's and piglets.

The childminder praises and encourages positive behaviour and celebrates children's achievements, as a result children respond and behave well.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and secure in the well organised environment, consequently they use and explore their surroundings with confidence and initiate and extend their own play.

The childminder's clear awareness of vetting procedures and understanding of ratios ensure children are protected and well cared for. However, the childminder's first aid certificate has expired and this compromises the childminder's ability to deal with accidents or minor injuries effectively.

Most records and documentation is in place which contributes to the continuity of care for the children; however, although parents have been aware, on the few occasions when medication has been administered, this information has not been recorded and acknowledged by parent's signatures, as a result, children's safety was not effectively promoted on these occasions.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that the childminder extend resources that reflect diversity.

The childminder has extended play materials to include a range of resources that promote a positive view of the wider world, increasing children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- update knowledge of first aid and ensure medication administered is recorded and that parents sign to acknowledge the entry

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