



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	313645
Inspection date	22 August 2006
Inspector	Donna Suzanne Lancaster

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 1982. She lives with her husband and their adult daughter. Her home is situated in Witton Gilbert. The ground floor of the home is used for childminding purposes, bathroom facilities are provided on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The family have a dog, a rabbit and two guinea pigs.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years at any one time. She is currently caring for eight children, all of whom are under eight years. All attend on a part-time basis. The childminder takes children to and collects children from the local primary school. She also takes children to local toddler groups on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home which contributes to their good health and sense of security. The childminder has all required documentation in place for addressing children's health needs, including appropriate documentation for the recording of accidents, medication administered and the exclusion of sick children. The childminder understands the importance of hygiene routines to protect children's health and older children are beginning to develop independence in personal care, such as washing their hands after toileting.

The children enjoy a wide range of physical activities to help them develop their good health. Daily activities include opportunities to be outdoors, such as visits to the park and playing football in the garden. Children are able to rest and be active according to their individual needs. The childminder has a good understanding about appropriate types of activities and provides good levels of support.

Children benefit from being offered varied and nutritious meals and snacks. The childminder works closely with parents to provide food and drinks; all of which appeal to children and meet their dietary needs. The children enjoy fresh fruit at snack time; they are encouraged to try different foods to promote their healthy growth and development. Regular drinks are offered and older children's independence is promoted when they are given choices.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home where most risks are identified and minimised. However, the premises are not always secure, hazardous substances are easily accessible to children and her registration certificate is not displayed for parents to see, all of which pose a risk to children's safety. The organisation of space ensures children have room to move around freely and independently.

Children safely select activities from a range of toys and equipment that meet safety standards. Equipment is stored in boxes in the bedrooms. The childminder brings a selection of boxes downstairs daily, depending on which children are being cared for. They are positioned appropriately at children's level. This allows all children easy access to them and to make choices for themselves and direct their own play. The childminder monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to ensure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Required records and procedures are in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are very happy and settled in the childminder's care. Routines and care have been established which are consistent with home life. The children relate well to each other and the childminder. Children's self-esteem is developing, as a result of the childminder encouraging and praising them and valuing what they have to offer. She shows an interest in what they do, for example, when the children have made necklaces and bracelets out of beads for their parents. Children have their individual needs met through the childminder's sound knowledge of their capabilities.

The childminder is aware of the children's individual interests and offers support and encourages their interest. Caring relationships are evident between the childminder and the children contributing to the children's sense of belonging. The range of resources available are appropriate to the ages of children attending and offer sufficient challenge.

Children are well supported by the childminder, who encourages them to extend their experiences by listening and talking with them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder satisfactorily promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, which results in the children feeling welcome at the provision. However, children have limited access to activities and resources that increase their awareness of diversity.

All children are welcomed into the home and participate in all activities provided by the childminder. The childminder follows the children's daily routines, after discussing them with parents, thus ensuring that the children's needs are well met. Children's behaviour is very good, as a result of the childminder's consistent and positive behaviour management strategies. Children feel relaxed and secure in the positive atmosphere that the childminder creates. Children show care and concern for each other and play well together. For example, when the children are playing with the picture dominoes they share the dominoes out, take turns and include and help the youngest child to join in their game.

Children benefit from the positive relationship the childminder has developed with their parents. Their views are sought about their children's individual needs at the initial meeting, and on a regular basis through daily verbal sharing of information. Parents have access to their child's individual records and some policies are available to them. This enables the childminder to meet each child's individual needs. However, the complaints procedure does not contain the correct contact details and has not been reviewed in line with recent changes to regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease in the organised environment. This means they are confident and happy within the care of the childminder. The required ratios are maintained,

resulting in children receiving appropriate support and their needs being met. Space, resources and routine are well organised to ensure children have easy access to the facilities and equipment they need. They can move safely in the home environment and take part in a wide range of interesting and enjoyable activities.

Records and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. They are shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. All relevant documentation is in place and good security measures are practised to protect children's personal information.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder received an action relating to documentation, to ensure Ofsted is informed of any notifiable infectious disease. She was also recommended to ensure information about all minded children was retained and made available for inspection and to ensure the low level bolt on the bathroom door did not pose a risk to minded children.

Since the last inspection the childminder has made improvements. She is fully aware that she must inform Ofsted of any notifiable diseases and would do so by telephone and follow this through in writing. Children's information and records are maintained appropriately and they are available for inspection at any time. The bolt on the bathroom door is now up at a height which is inaccessible to children. This has helped to improve and promote children's welfare and safety.

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 complaint 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):

- make sure that the premises are secure, that children are unable to leave them unsupervised and unwanted visitors are prevented from entering
- ensure children have access to a range of activities and resources that reflect diversity
- improve the procedure for parents to follow in the event of a complaint, to include the correct contact details and be in line with recent changes to regulations
- ensure hazardous substances are inaccessible to children
- ensure the registration certificate is displayed at all times.

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