



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY304335
Inspection date	15 February 2006
Inspector	Jane Lindsay Durand

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and 3 children aged 16, 14 and 11 years. They live in the Wilnecote area of Tamworth, Staffordshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and is currently caring for 3 children on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends toddler groups with her minded

children. The family has a dog and 2 chinchillas.

The childminder is able to support children with special educational needs and who speak English as an additional language. She is a member of an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a warm, comfortable and family centred environment. The childminder has established personal hygiene routines with the children, however, explanations as to the importance of such routines are not given to increase their understanding and knowledge. There are effective written procedures in place to maintain children's welfare, for example, sick child policy.

Children have their dietary needs met as the childminder works well with parents to meet their individual needs. Children eat their snacks and meals together and benefit from healthy alternatives at snack time, however, children do not learn about the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Children take part in a variety of activities which contribute to their good health. They enjoy active outdoor play, gaining control of their bodies on outdoor equipment, for example, riding bikes. Regular visits to the parks and walking to the shops builds on the children's physical well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children play in a warm, welcoming environment. Space has been organised to enable the children to move around freely. Toys and equipment are readily available and suitable for their purpose.

The childminder gives some priority to ensuring the children are safe whilst in her care, for example, through the use of a stair gate to restrict access to the first floor. However, the front door is always unlocked. This means children are able to leave the premises unsupervised and unauthorised persons are able to gain entry. This puts the children in potential danger.

Children learn about the emergency evacuation procedure of the building through discussions with the childminder and regular evacuation practices.

The childminder demonstrates some awareness of the Area Child Protection Procedures. However, her understanding of procedures regarding allegations whilst children are in her care is limited. This means children are not fully protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children experience a positive relationship with the childminder, which increases their sense of trust and well-being. They are supported by the childminder who is beginning to identify how to increase their learning in chosen activities.

Children have access to a variety of age and stage appropriate toys, however opportunities to enable younger children to experience a balanced curriculum is limited.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder, and they are encouraged to behave well, respond to challenges and are praised appropriately.

The children are able to access the outdoor play area during fine weather to develop their physical skills by using the trampoline, and various outdoor equipment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children show concern and care for each other, and make themselves at home. The childminder involves the children in some activities that promote a positive view of the wider world, such as, walks in the local community. There is, however, a limited range of toys and equipment available that reflects positive images of today's society. Therefore, this does not provide children with a fully inclusive view of the wider world.

Children behave well. The childminder has effective and consistent ways for dealing with children's behaviour, talking to children about their behaviour and distracting them to other activities. The use of praise and encouragement helps build children's self-esteem and promote good behaviour.

The children's individual needs are met as they follow their normal daily routines as discussed with parents. Children benefit from a two way sharing of information between parents and the childminder enabling her to obtain relevant information about the children's likes, dislikes and special needs.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children feel at home in a welcoming environment. A range of policies and procedures are used to promote the welfare of the children, for example, equal opportunities and behaviour management policies. However, training in first aid for infants and young children has not been completed. This means children's health may be compromised in an emergency.

The childminder does not employ an assistant. However, children are not protected fully because the childminder leaves her husband in sole charge of minded children

on regular occasions without parental permission. Ofsted have not been notified of this. This puts the children's safety at risk.

Overall the provision does not meet the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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.

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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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure the premises are secure and that children are unable to leave them unsupervised
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- ensure written parental permission is sought when an assistant is left in sole charge of children for short periods
- ensure Ofsted is notified of any significant events.

These actions are set out in a ***notice of action to improve*** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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