



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY307281
Inspection date 23 July 2006
Inspector Olwen Pulker

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 2005. She lives with her partner and two-year-old child in a hamlet near Church Stretton, Shropshire. The whole of the childminder's house, except the master bedroom, is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five for a few hours each week. The childminder is prepared to take and collect children from local schools and attend carer/toddler groups. The family has two pet rabbits.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from infection through the implementation of effective hygiene procedures. They are encouraged to be aware of their own personal hygiene as they wash their hands after toileting, contact with animals and before eating. Appropriate nappy changing routines and the exclusion of children who are sick or infectious minimise the risk of cross contamination.

Children's good health is promoted through the provision of a healthy diet. The childminder ensures that meals and snacks offered are varied and meet individual children's dietary needs. Visits to the local farm shop with the childminder to look at the various produce, selecting vegetables and helping with the preparation of meals introduce children to healthy eating options. Children are encouraged to drink plenty of water especially during hot weather.

Children have regular opportunities to develop their physical skills through use of the play equipment in the garden. They enjoy digging in the sand tray, riding on the wheeled toys and playing in the ball pool. They have plenty of fresh air and learn about the natural world as they go for walks locally.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an appropriate environment, where they are offered enough space to ensure that they can play comfortably. There are adequate arrangements made to meet children's needs within the home and to provide facilities for rest, relaxation and active play. There is a suitable range of toys and equipment, which is appropriate for the age of the children attending and is maintained in a safe condition. Some toys are easily accessible, to enable children to make choices about the activities they take part in.

Most risks in the home have been identified and addressed to ensure that children can move around the home safely. There are good procedures in place for ensuring children remain safe and secure at all times. Fire safety equipment is suitably located and the childminder has a well-planned emergency evacuation procedure in place to ensure children can be evacuated quickly in the event of fire. Timely reminders and sensitive discussions about appropriate behaviour and use of equipment help prevent accidents and injuries.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's appropriate knowledge of child protection issues and of the local Area Child Protection Committee's procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have access to a variety of toys, activities and equipment suitable to their ages and stages of development. They are able to initiate their own play and learning ideas, supported by the childminder. She interacts positively with the children in their daily routines and play, encouraging them to explore the natural world as they go for walks in the surrounding countryside. They observe butterflies and explore the habitats and actions of mini-beasts. Children develop a sense of caring and respect for animals as they gently handle and stroke the rabbit. A wide range of activities is available to children, which promote creative expression, such as chalking, painting and baking. Children are developing independence and self-esteem by selecting their activities and helping with household chores. They are encouraged and supported to become independent in self-care for example, putting on their shoes and taking responsibility for tidying away toys. Children form positive relationships as they share and play cooperatively together. Children become confident communicators, they are well supported by the childminder who enjoys listening and talking to them as they play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are encouraged to choose from the range of toys regardless of gender. They have access to some resources such as books and puzzles that encourage their understanding of others and promote a positive view of the wider world. The childminder ensures that children are treated as individuals and meets their specific needs effectively, according to parents wishes. Written agreements of care and daily discussions keep parents effectively informed about the service provided and promote children's well-being. However, the procedures for complaints are not made accessible to foster children's welfare.

Children are aware of the need to be kind to one another and to share as they play together. Good manners are encouraged and clear routines and boundaries promote children's understanding of acceptable behaviour. Appropriate methods to manage behaviour are outlined in the written policy which is available for parents to read and discuss to ensure consistency of care and consequently add to children's security.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Paperwork is stored in good order and mostly maintained in line with requirements. However, the written agreement with the parents has not been signed by both parties, nor has consent for seeking emergency medical treatment been obtained. Consequently, the children's welfare is not fully protected. A range of detailed policies and procedures are in place, which outline clearly the care provided for the children and how the childminder ensures that children are safe whilst in her care. These are available to parents so that they know about the care provided for their children.

The childminding space is effectively organised so that children have the use of

rooms, which are child-orientated and comfortable. They have good access to quieter activities, free play activities and outdoor play. The childminder continues to review the environment and how the garden can be developed so that children's needs continue to be met effectively.

Access to training materials is effective in ensuring that the childminder keeps up-to-date with current childcare issues and good practice guidelines. This allows children to be cared for in an environment which is interesting and stimulating. Overall children's needs are met.

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.

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 parents are aware of a complaints procedure which includes the address and telephone number of the regulator
- review documentation to ensure agreements with parents are fully signed by both parties and written consent for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice is maintained to further promote children's welfare.

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