



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138881
Inspection date	11 August 2006
Inspector	Jean Williams
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 1994. She is registered to provide care for six children under eight years. There are currently two children on roll. One child attends part time and the other attends the setting full time.

The childminder lives with her husband and two adult daughters. The home is within walking distance of all local amenities.

The ground floor of the house is used for childminding, children have access to the first floor bathroom.

There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The family have a cat and two guinea pigs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and welfare is positively promoted. They are learning good hygiene practices as they wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Children are protected from the possible risks of the spread of infection through the childminder's policy of not caring for sick children.

Appropriate documentation is in place with regard to the recording of accidents and the administration of medication. The childminder does not however, have written parental consent to apply sun cream to the children, when needed, during the summer time. At the time of inspection the childminder's first aid certificate had expired, she has made arrangements to attend a first aid course to refresh her skills and knowledge so that she will be able to deal with any accidents that may arise.

Children enjoy fresh air and exercise. They play in the garden with the toys such as balls and wheeled toys. The childminder takes the children to the local park, where they are able to enjoy the open space and the equipment such as the swings. This assists the development of their physical skills.

Children enjoy sociable meal times, their individual dietary needs are met. Nutritious snacks and meals such as roast chicken and fresh vegetables as well as fruit and yoghurt are provided by the childminder. Drinks are also readily available to the children.

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. The childminder has organised the space in her home to allow children to explore safely and independently. Children's individual needs are met because the childminder has a suitable range of well maintained toys, furniture and equipment such as a travel cot and a buggy.

Overall, children are safe and secure because the childminder ensures that they are closely supervised when in her care. She has taken some steps to minimise possible risks within the premises, however, the storage of some cleaning materials could cause a risk to children and the siting of the fire blanket requires some attention.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a sound knowledge of her role and responsibility with regard to child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a warm caring environment where children can play and develop. She gives them lots of encouragement and positive praise which enables them to have the confidence

to try activities and play independently. The children play happily with a range of appropriate toys and resources such as the painting activity. With the help of the childminder they enjoy dressing the dolls and taking them for walks in the buggies round the garden. The childminder considers the children's individual interests, and their ages and stages of development when planning the activities for the day.

Children have appropriately close relationships with the childminder, they seek comfort and support during their play. The childminder has a good understanding of how children learn and progress, she organises the day so that children have time to eat, rest and play. They visit the park and meet other childminders and minded children to play, they also enjoy visits to the library.

The children are happy and content in the childminder's care, they enjoy stories and singing their wide repertoire of songs such as "Old MacDonal had a Farm" with all the accompanying animal sounds, and "The Wheels on the Bus" with all the actions which is lovely to see and hear.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have equal access to a wide range of toys and resources, which help them to build on their positive identity and to develop an understanding of other cultures and beliefs. The childminder takes the children out in to the local community where they gain a positive awareness of the world in which they live.

The childminder provides the children with regular routines and consistent boundaries which means that they are confident in the setting and know what is expected of them. She has positive behaviour management strategies in place that are appropriate to the ages of the minded children and are discussed with the parents.

Children benefit from the good working relationships that the childminder has formed with the parents. There is a clear daily exchange of information regarding children's routines, activities and achievements. The childminder provides a flexible service to the parents and works closely in partnership with them which means that children's individual needs are fully met.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are very relaxed and comfortable in the childminders home. They receive lots of positive attention from her which promotes their emotional well-being. The day runs smoothly for the children because the childminder has regular routines and is well organised which means she is able to give her time freely to the children.

Most of the regulatory paperwork is maintained and is stored confidentially as required. However, the childminder has not displayed the registration certificate and has overlooked the requirement to ensure that adult family members have completed the vetting procedure.

Children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder because their welfare, care and development needs are met effectively. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to provide resources that reflect images of varying abilities. This has been achieved. The childminder has purchased books and puzzles for the children to use which means that they are increasing their awareness of differences.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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 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):

- ensure written parental consent is in place to apply creams and lotions to children
- ensure that the fire blanket is fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and that all cleaning materials are stored out of the reach of children
- ensure that the planned first aid course is completed
- ensure that all household members over the age of 16 have completed a CRB check
- ensure that the registration certificate is displayed

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