



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	261034
Inspection date	26 July 2006
Inspector	Sharon Waterfall
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 has been registered since 2001. She lives with her husband and three children in a semi-detached house in the Chelmsley Wood area of Solihull. The location is close to school, parks, shops and pre-schools and there is easy access to the motorway network. The whole of the property is used for childminding and there is a secure garden at the rear of the property available for play.

She is registered to care for six children under 8 years of age and is currently caring for six children aged from six months to eight years of age.

On a regular basis the childminder attends several local crèches and toddler groups. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and regularly networks with other childminders in the area.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children receive very nutritious meals that are planned in advance to ensure a variety of foods. The menu's are displayed for parents to see and change between the seasons of the year to meet children's changing needs. Children are encouraged to choose healthy foods from fruit platters made for desserts and snacks. Young babies individual routines are adhered to and they receive lots of positive praise and attention when being fed.

Children's health and welfare is maintained well overall, though there is a minor detail missing in the medication procedure. Written policies are shared and discussed with parents in advance to protect children from the spread of infections. This is supported by the strong hygiene procedures carried out and through children learning about the importance of personal hygiene.

Stimulating physical play is provided through a range of opportunities at home and through visits. Within the garden children develop climbing and balancing skills as they use tents, tunnels, slides and seesaws. These are further developed as the children attend local parks and ball pools.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are very confident in using the available play space, which is organised to enable them to have opportunities for active and quiet activities. The garden is easily accessible through the kitchen and the children move freely and safely both inside and out. Children are able to access some resources from low storage boxes in the lounge and from the play house in the garden, enabling them to initiate aspects of their own play. Relationships are warm and caring.

The childminder gives priority to the safety of the children and has identified and minimised many hazards within the home, though the fire blanket is not mounted for best use. The children learn about keeping themselves safe through discussions about emergency evacuations and road safety.

The childminder fully understands her role in protecting children from harm and is able to evidence a good knowledge of types of abuse and possible symptoms.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's socialisation skills are developed through regular attendance at local toddler groups. These groups enable the children to have a wider range of age appropriate activities such as creative play and more physical play. The children also benefit from other trips such as going on the monorail to Birmingham Airport and watching the planes take off and land and walks in many of the local parks.

The children engage in a wide range of activities within the home also, during the colder months they have more opportunities for creative play making cards and items based on themes such as Christmas and Halloween. During the inspection the children are busy and occupied with colouring, a children's film and playing with construction. In the garden there is a play house and the children can dress up and role play. More educational activities include books, board games and occasional home work.

The children have direct support from the childminder during play, there is constant talking and suggestions of activities. The young baby present is cuddled and hugged, there is very positive eye contact made. The child is encouraged to reach for toys whilst laying on the floor and has a play gym again to encourage control of body movements.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individuality is respected and valued as the childminder thinks about what the children need at different ages and ensures activities aid them in developing. Resources are appropriate to their development and the childminder spends time with the children directly. She follows children's individual routines, particularly for the babies. Older children are encouraged to have responsibilities to help in routines such as fetching babies nappies and laying the table. The children are becoming aware of the wider society as they access an appropriate range of resources that promote positive images of diversity.

The children are encouraged to behave well through gentle reminders about sharing and taking turns through the activities. They have free choice of activities and are able to make their own decisions and their opinions are valued. Praise is used constantly to raise children's self esteem.

The childminder works conscientiously with parents to meet the children's individual needs and ensures that they are included within the life of the setting. Contracts are completed and reviewed with the parents regularly ensuring all parties are aware of the expectations and children's requirements very well. All policies and procedures are shared with the parents, supporting an excellent consistency of care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

In the main written policies and procedures support children's overall health, welfare and safety very well. Due to a missing child detail form, permissions for that child regarding emergency medical treatment and travelling in a vehicle are not held. Though the childminder has written policies regarding children's care that she discusses with parents regularly.

The space is organised well to enable children to benefit in play and they are confident when moving around the home. Relationships are warm and caring with lots of hugs and positive attention between the childminder and children. The children have a sense of belonging through these relationships and that their individual routines and needs are met. Therefore, the provision meets the needs of the range of children in attendance.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two recommendations were raised to improve the care for children, these have been completed. The childminder was asked to increase her range of resources that promote positive images of the diversity within the society. This she has done by obtaining books and dolls and enables children to have a positive understanding of diversity. The second recommendation was to have written agreements with parents about expectations of the service, contracts have now been agreed with each parent and support the consistency of care for the children.

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 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 the fire blanket is mounted to enable immediate use
- ensure relevant information is held regarding each child, in particular permission for emergency medical treatment, travelling in a vehicle and that the medication procedure includes a parental confirmation signature after medicine has been administered.

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