

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 402329
Inspection date 03 October 2007
Inspector Karen Eunice Millerchip

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 1982. She lives with her husband in a terraced house situated in the Binley area of Coventry. The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom are used for minding. There is direct access to a safely enclosed garden used for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to provide for six children in total and currently minds six children on a part-time basis. She also minds two children over eight years of age before and after school and in the school holidays.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn about the importance of hygiene and personal care. They are provided with liquid soap and paper towels for hand washing in the bathroom and are encouraged to use baby wipes prior to having snacks. Their health is

safeguarded because the childminder has a current first aid certificate, a fully stocked first aid box and good systems to record accidents and medication given to children.

Children take part in a suitable range of activities which contribute to their health. They walk to school and back and during school holidays children visit local parks and places of interest. Children also use the garden for outdoor play but their health is potentially compromised as they can access discarded cigarette ends.

Children bring their own food to the childminder's home, which is appropriately stored to reduce risk of contamination until children require it. They have access to fruit, snacks and a range of drinks at all times. Children's individual dietary needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a home where their needs are given priority. Risks to children have been identified and minimised and daily checks ensure that children move around the home safely and freely. The childminder helps them to understand how to keep themselves safe. Children know that they need to stay close to the childminder when out of the home and they learn how to cross a road safely.

Children choose from toys of good quality and the childminder makes daily checks of safety equipment. A written emergency escape plan is in place and children become familiar with it when they practise it. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has attended a Health and Safety course, has all required documentation and many additional written policies and procedures, which help to keep children safe.

Children are protected from risk of harm by the childminder's suitable knowledge of signs of harm or abuse and her understanding of local procedures to follow should she have any concerns. This information is shared with parents through a written policy to ensure they are aware of the expectations of them should their child have an accident or injury.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, self-assured and are encouraged to share their views about where they play and what they like to do. They can relax or be active and although initially the room is set out by the childminder, they are encouraged to self-select other resources according to their own interests.

Children are provided with a well-balanced range of activities to suit their individual age and needs such as music sessions, cooking, role play, jigsaws, art and craft. They are encouraged to include new children with their games and the childminder talks to them as they play to provide extra support. Children are encouraged to talk about their daily experiences and lively discussions take place about different aspects of the school day such as lessons, teachers and lunch time.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children choose from a good range of resources to develop a positive understanding of different cultures and people with disabilities. They use pictures and books to talk about the festivals and try foods associated with the celebration. They play with dolls, figures, jigsaws and books representative of different cultures and abilities. They learn to appreciate and value each others' similarities and differences through discussion and during daily experiences. Currently there are no children with learning disabilities and/or difficulties being cared for but the childminder has past experience and ensures that she works with parents and other professionals to meet each child's specific needs.

Children learn to play together and how to respect each other's feelings. They behave well and are learning to share and are encouraged to be kind to each other. Children are praised when they are being good and unacceptable behaviour is clearly explained to them. Older children readily follow familiar 'house rules' such as taking off shoes, hanging up coats and keeping the hallway clear of obstructions. Younger children are given gentle reminders and support with these tasks. The childminder is consistent in her management, a good role model and takes account of children's different levels of development.

Children develop a sense of belonging because they are offered a settling-in period and gradual visits to the home. Parents are provided with well-written policies and documentation to ensure they know how their child is cared for. Daily information sharing takes place to ensure children's changing needs are identified and met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a relaxed, homely environment where a range of well-balanced experiences are on offer. Daily routines are in place but are amended appropriately to respond to the different needs of the children cared for. Space and activities are well organised to allow children to make independent choices. The childminder's practice effectively promotes the welfare, care and learning of children.

Comprehensive policies and procedures are accurate and up-to-date and freely accessible to parents. However, the daily register does not accurately reflect children's attendance which potentially compromises their welfare. The childminder has all the required information and consent from parents to promote children's well-being. The childminder is interested in training to keep her knowledge and skills updated and to continually improve her care of children. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to develop the range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Children can now access a wide range of resources that include jigsaws, books, small world figures and dolls to develop their understanding of different groups in society.

The childminder also agreed to ensure that all documentation relating to regulation refers to Ofsted. All paperwork has been amended and is up-to-date.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 daily register accurately reflects the details of children's attendance
- ensure the garden is kept clear of discarded cigarette ends.

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