

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY358970
Inspection date	09 April 2008
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 satisfactory. 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 2007. She lives with her parents and two siblings, one of whom is an adult and the other aged 12 years, in a suburb of Telford, Shropshire. Her mother is also a registered childminder. The whole of the ground floor and the youngest child's bedroom are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has a dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time when working alone and when working with another childminder the registration increases to a maximum of eight children. There are currently five children under the age of five attending part-time. The childminder is able to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools and attends a local carer and toddler group on a regular basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in a clean and well-maintained home. They are protected from the risk of infection and cross-contamination through the childminder's awareness of children's health care matters and the implementation of related policies and procedures, such as excluding children who are ill or infectious. Individual bedding is provided for each child and the childminder has a robust nappy changing procedure in place. Some of the drinking cups are identical which increases the risk of cross-contamination as young children are unable to identify which is theirs and consequently drink out of each other's cups. Accidents that have occurred at the setting are suitably recorded and, although not used as yet, paperwork is in place for medication. The childminder regularly updates her first aid certificate and has received training in the use of epi-pens. However, not all written consents to seek emergency advice or treatment is in place for all the children. This could compromise a child's welfare in the case of an emergency.

The childminder promotes healthy eating by using fresh ingredients, including vegetables and fruit, to provide nutritious meals and snacks which meet children's dietary needs. Children are offered varied, balanced cooked lunches daily with an alternative choice provided if required. Drinking water is always available to ensure children quench their thirst throughout the day.

Children access a good range of activities which contributes to their health and well-being. They enjoy walks in the fresh air, and regular visits to the local play park and indoor play barns improve children's physical skills. The childminder takes children swimming.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to play, eat and sleep comfortably in an appropriately organised and welcoming environment. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. A selection of well-maintained resources is available; several play options are placed on the playroom floor so that the youngest children are able to access them safely and independently.

Children's safety is appropriately promoted through the childminder's ability to implement necessary precautions both inside and outside the home. Most risks have been identified and minimised to allow children the freedom to move around the ground floor rooms safely. There is a well-planned emergency evacuation procedure in place and the required smoke detectors and fire blanket are suitably sited. Children's safety when travelling in the childminder's car is suitably promoted; each child is seated appropriately, the insurance for the vehicle includes relevant business use and parental permission has been gained for transporting children.

Children's welfare is well protected through the childminder's knowledge of child protection issues. She has attended training and shows a good understanding of the procedure to follow with any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well soon after arriving and make themselves at home. They have access to a variety of toys, activities and equipment suitable to their ages and stages of development. Children are purposefully involved in their play and enjoy activities of their choice. They are excited and show interest in what they choose to do. They are happy playing games with the childminder who interacts positively with them and encourages them to develop a range of skills. They experience different textures as they experiment with gloop and paint or investigate the contents of treasure baskets. Children form positive relationships as they share and play cooperatively together and are able to extend their social skills further by attending weekly play sessions at a toy shop in the town centre. Older children learn to be gentle and interact appropriately with babies under sensitive instructions from the childminder. Babies learn to communicate and babble excitedly or make animal noises when prompted by the childminder. Children are developing independence and self-esteem by selecting their activities, beginning to take responsibility for tidying away toys and helping with the care of the younger children with support from the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have free access to a good range of resources and equipment which they enjoy and find stimulating. Younger children are supported well to become independent and develop self-confidence as the childminder encourages and supports them to explore and investigate the world around them. Children's individual needs are accommodated well with the childminder following their routines and being aware of their likes and dislikes. She has experience of caring for children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and understands the importance of working in partnership with parents and other professionals to promote the welfare and development of the child.

Good techniques are used to promote and encourage appropriate behaviour, such as praise, distraction, and a basic awareness of what the children like to do. This helps to promote a respectful and caring atmosphere. Children are beginning to understand what is expected of them and are developing a positive attitude towards other children as they learn to share toys and take turns.

The partnership with parents is good, with a strong emphasis on support and consistency. Verbal feedback, the completion of daily diaries and the sharing of photographs and video clips ensure that parents know what their children have been doing whilst in the childminder's care and are aware of any issues.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder works with a co-childminder, sharing roles and responsibilities equally between them to ensure safe management of the provision, ensuring that ratios are effectively met and that her day is organised to offer children a good level of attention and supervision. Children have sufficient space, activities and resources to provide for their needs. 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.

Paperwork is stored in good order and mostly maintained in line with requirements. However, the register does not record which adult cares for the children on a daily basis when both childminders are present. Consequently children's welfare is not fully protected.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 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):

- take further steps to prevent the spread of infection by ensuring drinking cups are not shared
- request written permission from all parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- detail on the daily register the name(s) of who is providing the care for the minded children.

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