



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 309879
Inspection date 24 November 2005
Inspector Jacqueline West

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 1991. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a semi-detached house, in a residential area of Wallsend. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time. She is currently minding 2 children under 5-years-old all day as well as 3 children over 5-years-old before and after school. The childminder walks to the local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler

group. The family has no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to good health. They have regular opportunity for outdoor play, including visits to the local park and toddler groups. The childminder's flexible routine incorporates time for quiet play and rest, enhancing children's well-being.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene as part of the daily routine. The childminder's relationship with parents and effective procedures, ensure children are cared for appropriately when ill. This reduces the risk of the spread of infection. All relevant documentation with regard to health, including accident records and consent forms are in place and up to date. These positively safeguard children's well-being.

Parents provide all meals and snacks for the children, safe storage is ensured. The children confidently ask for drinks when they are thirsty. Meal times are a social occasion and children become independent in feeding themselves.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a clean, welcoming environment. They can move around safely, freely and independently. Equipment, toys and resources are of good quality and the children are able to explore safely. Children access the toys independently. Routines, such as, tidying away toys from the floor encourage children to take responsibility for their own safety. Children are able to progress well in a safe environment.

The premises are secure with effective procedures being in place for the collection of children, ensuring they are well protected. Regular risk assessments both indoors and out, minimise the risk of accidental injury. However, one area is still to be addressed. The childminder is vigilant on outings, the children are aware of the rules and boundaries in order to ensure their safety.

The childminder's current child protection knowledge is satisfactory; appropriate documentation is available, but this does not include contact details, should a concern arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are happy, settled and secure. They enjoy their time with the childminder and are eager to participate in the wide variety of activities provided. The flexible routine enables them to make independent decisions and choices, raising

their self confidence.

Children's concentration spans are good. Activities are purposeful, and offer appropriate challenge for their age and stage of development. Children are highly motivated to play with a wide variety of toys and activities. They are enthusiastic, excited and eager to learn.

The children progress well as the childminder assesses and responds to their individual needs. Children's communication skills are well fostered, resulting in very good interactions between themselves and the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well settled in this friendly and welcoming environment. They have a sense of belonging due to the childminder's warm and caring nature. All children are welcomed into the setting. There is a satisfactory range of resources and activities, promoting a positive view of the wider world. Children also visit the local community to places of interest.

Children are learning to share and take turns through the childminder's appropriate support. Children's behaviour is very good. The childminder's good understanding of their individual personalities promotes effective behaviour management. She is a very good role model, and offers a caring, calm approach. However, she does set clear rules and boundaries. Children benefit from constructive praise, such as, 'you are a very clever boy for completing the puzzle'. This raises self- esteem.

Partnership with parents is satisfactory. Parents are fully informed of their child's day by daily discussion. Children's details are clear and well recorded ensuring their individual needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The environment and equipment are generally well organised. A selection of toy boxes is available for the children to self select promoting independence. Outings are regularly planned. Time is well organised and this allows for individual needs to be met, including regarding sleeping patterns.

The documentation is complete and well organised, yet there is no written information to reflect the good practices in place.

Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was asked to review the safety of the low level glass in the doors.

The doors have been replaced resulting in a safe environment for 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 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):

- review the safety of the window in bathroom.

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