



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	227586
Inspection date	08 June 2005
Inspector	Jayne Lesley Taylor

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1989. She lives with her husband, her two teenage children and mother who works as her assistant in Quinton. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a pet cockatiel.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm clean home where they are observing and following good hygiene practice so that the spread of infection is minimised and children's health is protected. The childminder is diligent and consistent in her cleaning. Children understand how to keep themselves healthy and know the importance of good personal hygiene and routines, throwing away used paper towels and tissues because they "have germs".

Children understand that fresh air and exercise is good for them "when we go out we get some air and that makes us hungry and stops us from getting tired". They benefit from their daily routine of walking to and from school and have regular opportunities to play outside or use the local park. The children enjoy relaxed daily routines that enables them to rest or relax as they wish.

Children are well nourished, they are able to select what they would like to eat through out the day which enables them to make healthy choices from the options offered. They enjoy and benefit from a well balanced diet which includes fresh foods, fruits and a range of nutritious meals and snacks. Children are able to have drinks whenever they want to because they are available to them at all times, with the childminder monitoring that they drink regularly. All of the children sit together at lunch times, encouraging each other to eat and enjoying a social occasion.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment that is warm, welcoming and child friendly. They can independently access a good safe range of toys and equipment, both inside and outside because the childminder assesses and minimises any potential risks.

Children can independently and safely access toys from the range that is available to them, the childminder supervises their choices to make sure that they are appropriate for the age and ability of the children present. They make decisions about what they need to play with or the childminder extends the range by suggesting that they use something different.

Children understand how to keep themselves safe by being able to gain independence in a safe environment where they know which areas they can access and what they should not touch. When they are outside they know that they should wear hats and sunscreen at all times. Their safety and well being is maintained by the childminder's effective supervision and by her role in reinforcing safety messages, for example involving children in fire practices. The childminder regularly

carries out effective risk assessments of the premises.

Children's welfare is further protected because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures and is aware of her role and responsibilities to protect children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled within the setting, they have good relationships with both adults and their peers and are developing their own independence. They are encouraged to make choices about what they want to do for example choosing whether they want to play inside or outside and what toys they would like. Children's understanding is being supported by the level of interaction from the childminder, she listens to them and encourages them to respond.

Children confidently approach activities and play well together sharing toys and ideas freely. They play confidently together with or without the childminders attention. Children benefit from a flexible routine that means that they are able to participate and achieve something within the time that they attend.

The children visit local facilities, for example shops and the park where they benefit from socialising with others. The childminder is able to meet the individual needs of the children by having an understanding of child development and she actively uses the Birth to Three matters framework

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and treated with equal concern, because the childminder has a good understanding of equality issues, as well as working with children with special needs . They share and take turns, thinking of each others needs while building their confidence when making choices and decisions for themselves.

Because of very clear consistent boundaries and expectations the children understand what is expected of them, which supports their understand of the need for good behaviour. Children are aware of the feelings of others and the impact that their behaviour can have.

Children's individual requirements are very well met because the childminder has a strong commitment to working alongside parents and ensures that she shares information daily with them. She has a strong commitment to supporting children and their parents. Communication is good because she regularly updates herself of any changes regarding their needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children of all ages have their needs well met through the effective organisation of the space available, they are able to undertake a range of activities and experiences without them impacting upon each other. All of the children use the space available freely and safely when they wish to play, rest or relax. Children benefit from a higher level of adult support and guidance when the childminder's assistant is present, helping them to feel secure and confident.

The childminder attends training sessions to update her own personal development. All required documentation that contributes to children's health, safety and well being is in place, it is stored securely and confidentially and is regularly reviewed and updated. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was asked to obtain a list of notifiable diseases. She now has this in place, this ensures children are protected from infection.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- develop resources that support children's understanding of disability

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