



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	228446
Inspection date	07 July 2005
Inspector	Hayley Lapworth

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 registered in 1995. She lives with her husband and children aged 14, 12, 4 and 3 months. They live in a house in Yardley, Birmingham.

All areas of the property are used for childminding downstairs and the bathroom and front large bedroom upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is currently registered for 5 children at any one time and is currently minding 4 children.

The childminder currently minds with another childminder.

The family has a hamster and goldfish.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from learning the importance of hygiene, they are encouraged to develop some self care skills which are incorporated into daily routines developing their independence.

Children's individual dietary needs are met, likes and dislikes are considered and most of the foods offered are of nutritional value to children. Children are provided with individual cups for drinks that are always available and easily accessed encouraging their overall independence. Children benefit from regular opportunities to access outdoor play and increase their physical skills, through playing on large equipment in the rear garden at a variety of venues.

Children are treated sensitively and receive effective care following an accident in the childminder's care and all records are well maintained.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's overall safety needs are maintained, the childminder has taken many steps to create a child friendly environment, allowing them areas to safely play together.

The resources are stored appropriately with the safety of younger children considered whilst allowing older children to independently access toys and equipment suitable to their age and stage of development.

Children are learning about how to keep themselves safe through regular practise of the evacuation process in the event of an emergency.

The childminder holds all relevant documentation in relation to the use of the car including MOT certificate and insurance and parental permission for transporting children.

Children's welfare is promoted and enhanced by the childminder's good knowledge and understanding of her responsibilities when working within child protection procedures, in addition to this a policy is in place which enhances the importance of exchanging information between the parents and the childminder.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are happy and settled in the childminder's care, they are confident individuals within the home and access many opportunities outdoors, for example access to a large rear garden, local groups and organised trips.

Children's social skills are supported by encouragement from the childminder and spending time in a relaxed atmosphere with other children within the home. Children and young toddlers are encouraged to interact and communicate during play. Children benefit from one to one time with the childminder where their language skills are encouraged and enhanced, for example by the introduction of new words.

Children have opportunities to independently access resources in most areas of the home from the suitable range available to individual age groups. The resources provide children with appropriate challenges and stimulate their learning and overall development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children have access to a good range of toys and resources which reflect equality, they access opportunities to be involved in activities which increase their knowledge and understanding of the world.

Children's sense of belonging and security is enhanced through regular communication with parents and effective methods to share information, promoting good partnerships and consistency of care. Children respond well to the childminder's positive approach of managing behaviour and are clear of the boundaries within the home which allow them to become confident in their surroundings and behave well.

Children benefit from being cared for as individuals with their particular needs being met. Children are encouraged to be aware of differences between themselves and others through resources which increase their knowledge and understanding.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are able to move around freely most of the day and explore their surroundings, the space is well organised to ensure children are well supervised and remain within the childminder's sight.

Children benefit from the childminder's ongoing professional development, she is active in accessing training which enhances and is reflected in the quality of the service she provides.

All the necessary documentation is held, all of which is stored appropriately in a confidential manner, however one amendment needs to be addressed on the registration record. Information is shared with parents verbally on a regular basis with many written policies and procedures also in place. Overall, the provision meets the

needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection children's parents are well informed of the childminder's practice, therefore children's overall care is well promoted through this relationship.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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 registration document includes the times of arrival and departure.

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