



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	251892
Inspection date	26 July 2006
Inspector	Jackie Nation
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 1995. She lives with her adult daughter in Wolverhampton, within walking distance of local amenities such as schools, shops and parks. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. First floor rooms are not used except for access to the bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

The family have number of pet guinea pigs and a rabbit which are kept in secure hutches in the garden.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding two children under five years on varied days and four children over five years before and after school, this includes two children who are over eight years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and well-being is well fostered by the childminder. Children are cared for in a warm, clean home, where they gain a good understanding of the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Children understand the importance of careful hand washing before meals, after playing in the garden or when they have been handling the pets. Effective procedures are in place to reduce the risk of cross infection, for example, there are good procedures in place for changing nappies and the provision of liquid soap and clean towels for children when they use the bathroom. The childminder is trained to administer first aid and all the required documentation and formats are in place for accidents and medication. However, written consent from parents to enable the childminder to seek emergency medical treatment or advice is not in place for some children.

Children's individual dietary needs are met effectively, as these are discussed with parents and details of specific dietary needs are recorded. Children are provided with regular drinks which ensures they are kept hydrated.

Children's physical skills are well supported and children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health and well-being. The childminder recognises the importance of physical activity and how it promotes children's good health and development. Children walk to and from school each day, they walk to local parks and enjoy good access to a spacious garden. Children benefit from being able to use a wide range of play equipment and this helps them to develop confidence and positive attitudes to physical exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, welcoming and secure environment. There is a dedicated playroom for children and this creates a relaxed and child-friendly environment. Children are able to select activities from an extensive range of good quality toys and resources which offer challenge and are appropriate to their stage of development. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises the use of toys to make sure they are safe and used appropriately by the children.

The childminder has a good understanding of health and safety; she is vigilant and supervises children well. Children benefit from a range of safety measures already in place to minimise hazards and enable them to explore their surroundings safely. For example, safety gates are used to prevent access to the stairs and front door. The childminder gives good priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe, for example, they understand about the rules of road safety. The childminder ensures children are safe when on outings and takes appropriate information such as parent contact numbers in case of an emergency. However, written permission has not been obtained from parents for their child to be transported in a vehicle. The childminder has written emergency evacuation procedures in place and all other aspects of fire safety are given good attention. Children learn about fire safety and know the procedure for evacuation in an emergency.

Children are protected from possible harm or neglect because the childminder is knowledgeable about child protection. She is careful to restrict other people's access to her home and to children whilst she is childminding. She has attended child protection training and is fully aware of her role and responsibility in protecting children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy. They develop their play and learning because the childminder has a good understanding of child development and she knows the children well. Children attending after school are able to make decisions about their play, select activities and develop their interests. Children are given time to play and learn independently and benefit from being able to take part in a wide range of worthwhile and interesting activities. The childminder ensures children have a varied day and they enjoy activities which contribute to their creativity and imagination, for example, dressing up, art and craft activities and construction. During routines and activities children are naturally introduced to colours, letters, numbers and shapes.

Children have good access to outside play, they walk local parks and enjoy trips to Baggeridge Park and Himley Park. The organisation of the home and use of appropriate resources helps younger children become increasingly independent. The childminder has attended training for the 'Birth to Three Matters' framework. She has given consideration as to how she intends to implement the components of the framework to improve outcomes for children and promote effective practice in the care and education of children of young children.

Children's self-esteem and confidence are promoted because the childminder encourages children to take part in activities in a safe and supportive environment. Children benefit from good interaction with the childminder, she has a warm rapport with them and a gentle approach. She is reassuring to children and listens carefully to what they are saying. The childminder helps children distinguish between right and wrong by encouraging them to get on well together. Children's activities and achievements are shared with parents.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well supported because the childminder makes sure children are welcomed into her home and feel a sense of belonging. Their care needs are discussed with parents and routines and preferences are followed, this helps children to settle in and feel comfortable. Older children are confident in stating their preferences and the childminder encourages them to make choices and take responsibility for their own decisions. Children learn about diversity through the use of resources reflecting positive images. The childminder is sensitive towards inclusion. She recognises the importance of continuing discussions with parents to ensure all children's needs are met.

Children's behaviour is good and their sense of right and wrong is developed through the childminder's understanding of behaviour management. Children develop an understanding of responsible behaviour because the childminder encourages them to play safely with toys and

equipment, and get on well with each other. The childminder is a positive role model to children, she is polite, friendly and courteous. Children's conversations are listened to and valued, and each child is praised for their achievements.

Partnership with parents is good and this has a positive impact on the children's well-being. Information is shared daily and parents are kept informed about their child's day, care and routine. Good settling in procedures are designed to help children settle more easily, and to ensure the childminder is aware of their needs and care routines. Several parents provided references for the childminder for this inspection and it is evident from these how pleased they are with the care and service offered.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced through the effective organisation of space and resources. The childminder makes good use of space to ensure all children have the opportunity to complete activities, relax, sit together at mealtimes and talk about their day. Children benefit from well-established routines which have a good regard for their individual routines. Children are confident and feel at home and at ease within this family environment.

Children's good health, safety, enjoyment and achievement are promoted effectively through the use of recording procedures which are shared with parents. The childminder continues to develop her knowledge and understanding of child care practices by completing and implementing relevant training. For example, 'Birth to three matters' guidance, child protection and food safety. All documentation is stored securely and organised to maintain confidentiality. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children in her care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection there were four recommendations. Two related to documentation and the childminder agreed to; improve recording procedures with regard to recording children's attendance and ensure parents are aware of the procedure to follow if they have a complaint. One aspect of safety required attention, with regard to making sure that the premises are secure and children are unable to leave them unsupervised. The childminder was asked to further develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

All issues raised have received good attention, resulting in effective recording procedures relating to children's attendance. Parents are aware of the procedure to follow if they wish to make a complaint. The childminder has displayed a poster in the playroom which details the regulators telephone number. The issue regarding an aspect of safety has been rectified. The fence panel in the garden has been replaced to make sure the premises are secure and children are unable to leave them unsupervised. The childminder has taken positive steps to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues by attending a training course. She has a copy of the local child protection procedures and knows who to contact if she has any concerns.

The action taken by the childminder in response to the recommendations has a positive impact on the welfare, safety and care of all 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 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):

- obtain written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- obtain written permission from parents for their child to be transported in a vehicle.

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