



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY137172
Inspection date	23 June 2006
Inspector	Kathryn Mary Harding
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 was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband, four children and her mother-in-law in Loggerheads, Staffordshire. She works with another childminder. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five and three children over five years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has two cats.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted well as the childminder has good procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection. As the childminder reminds children to wash their hands, the children respond by saying they know to do this. A sickness policy is available so parents are aware of how best to promote children's good health.

The childminder has a good understanding of food nutrition. The children are encouraged to learn about living healthily as they talk about the benefits of eating fruit and go strawberry picking. Cooked meals are provided according to the dietary requirements of the children. Children are offered regular drinks of juice so that they do not become thirsty.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. There are outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example, an obstacle course is set up and children use a small trampoline. They take part in a good range of activities, such as craft activities and threading to help develop their fine control skills. Regular nature walks improve children's physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment which is warm and where there is sufficient space for them to play in. Their own pictures and paintings are displayed on the walls making the rooms more welcoming to children and parents. In order to help keep children safe the childminder checks the rooms prior to the children arriving. Safety precautions, such as stair gates and window locks are in place. A CCTV monitor is used to help keep children safe and children practise the emergency evacuation plan. The childminder has also completed a health and safety workshop.

Children independently select activities from a range of good quality toys and resources which meet safety standards and are regularly checked. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises their choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children are encouraged to keep themselves safe as they talk about road safety when outside the home and not running inside the house.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection matters and has attended a workshop, an advanced workshop and a correspondence course on child protection matters. She has a leaflet available regarding what to do if there is a child protection concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and interested to learn. Close and caring relationships between the childminder and the children have formed, which increases their sense of trust and helps

them develop a strong sense of self. The childminder supports the children well in their play as they hop around the garden pretending to be frogs. The childminder snuggles younger children in as they have a drink.

Children engage in a wide range of activities which promote their overall development very well, such as imaginary play, craft activities and construction sets. Their learning is extended as the childminder encourages the children to think by asking open-ended questions when talking about the doll being poorly. They sing nursery rhymes as they play. Scrapbooks containing children's artwork and photographs are maintained so parents can see what their child has been doing.

Resources are stored at child height and are easily accessible for children in the well organised playroom. They choose and make decisions about their play, encouraging them to be independent learners. The childminder has the 'Birth to three matters' framework and adapts activities to promote younger children's learning, such as when taking part in role play activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others is extended as the childminder has a sound range of activities and resources to positively reflect diversity. The children look at different countries, such as Africa, play with African instruments and eat African food. The childminder ensures that children are treated as individuals and meets their specific needs effectively.

Children learn to negotiate with others and take responsibility for their own behaviour, as the childminder has clear strategies in place to deal with unwanted behaviour. Their understanding of right and wrong is increased as they are given explanations why the behaviour is not acceptable. They are encouraged to use good manners and are given clear and consistent boundaries so promoting consideration for each other. Lots of praise and encouragement is used with the children so promoting their self-esteem.

Partnership with parents is good and the childminder keeps parents well informed about how their child has been, what they have been doing and where they are planning on going. The childminder takes lots of photographs, so parents can see what their child has been playing with or where they have been. The childminder has a general diary which parents can view. This ensures consistency of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder demonstrates a high regard for children's well-being and offers them a good level of support. This is enhanced as the children have two carers, as the childminder works with another childminder. The childminder is keen to enhance her practice and has attended training and workshops to improve her childcare practice. The children feel at home in the well-organised environment and are confident to initiate their own play and learning.

The childminder works well to promote children's health, enjoyment and achievement. Most policies and procedures are in place to ensure that children are cared for consistently. However, the register needs to contain more detail, so that it is clear which person is caring for the child. The certificate of registration is displayed so parents are aware of the conditions of registration. Confidentiality is maintained as all paperwork is stored securely.

Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to develop her knowledge of the current guidance for child protection "What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused". She has attended a workshop, an advanced workshop and a correspondence course on child protection matters. This enables her to help protect and safeguard the children in her care.

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):

- ensure that the daily record of attendance makes it clear who is caring for the child.

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