



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY200384
Inspection date	17 November 2005
Inspector	Janet Fairhurst

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 2002. He lives with his wife and their 2 children aged 9 and 13 years, on a residential estate, close to shops and schools. The childminder regularly works with his wife who is a registered childminder. The whole of the ground floor and an upstairs bathroom are used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden at the rear of the property which can be used for outdoor play.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. He uses local amenities, such as, the park and toddler groups. He is registered to care for 6 children, and when working with his partner can care for 8 children at any one time.

There is currently 13 children on roll who attend on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities, which contributes to their good health. There are daily outings to the local parks, toddler groups, soft play and other places of interest; where children can run, jump and climb. The childminder has a good understanding of the children's need for a wide variety of physical play to build their confidence and ensure their health, growth and development.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They learn when they need to wash their hands before meals and after visiting the toilet. Good hygiene arrangements are in place during nappy changing routines that help prevent the spread of infection. Children are protected from infection and ill health because the childminder is well informed about children's health care matters.

Children's dietary needs are met and they benefit from healthy meals and snacks, such as fresh fruit, dried fruit and vegetables. Effective systems ensure that meals provided by parents are appropriately stored and prepared; as a result, children are offered foods suited to their individual needs. Children confidently choose when they want a drink. Younger children are regularly offered drinks to ensure they are not thirsty

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised by the effective organisation of space and the use of safety equipment. Children learn about keeping themselves safe through discussions with the childminder about road safety and house rules, such as, no running indoors.

Children use a varied range of good quality play materials and equipment, which are safe and suitable to minimise risks. These are organised to encourage children's independent access. Babies do not have access to toys, which may cause them any harm. Older children learn to keep small items out of reach of those younger than them. Young children learn how to use all their senses as they explore and investigate a range of safe, natural materials. The childminder gives good individual support; ensuring close physical proximity, so babies quickly become confident as they attempt to pull themselves up onto furniture and try to crawl.

Children are well protected. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding about child protection procedures, and has all relevant information and contact details, which enables her to keep them safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children benefit from familiar routines, which help them feel secure. They are happy and enjoy their time with the childminder and the varied activities. Children's confidence and independence skills are developing well, as they make choices about activities and the materials they use. Children experience a wide range of activities, which promote their development and learning, both within the home and the community. They enjoy dressing up and learning about shape during creative activities. Young children enjoy music and exploring objects that make different sounds.

Children are developing good levels of concentration as they explore and select a range of creative materials to express their own ideas. The childminder uses these opportunities to promote children's learning, as they talk about shape, size and sound out letters of the child's name. The childminder is becoming familiar with the 'Birth to three matters' framework, which he is using to help plan activities for very young children.

Children benefit from warm and affectionate relationships with the childminder, which contribute to children's sense of belonging. Children freely climb on the childminder's knee to give her a hug. The children and childminder show mutual respect for each other as they talk and listen to each other. Children develop their language and communication skills as they look at photographs and scrap books with the childminder. This helps them recall familiar events and talk about their family making links with home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder forms with parents. Information about the children's development and activities are shared on a daily basis. This provides continuity and consistency for children and involves parents in their child's care. Children are respected for their individuality. They confidently make their needs known and express their thoughts and ideas, which makes each child feel important and valued.

Children learn about the wider world through resources and activities. The childminder encourages the children to collect clippings from newspapers, magazines and other pictorial information relating to local and cultural events. This is used as a discussion tool to help children think about similarities and differences. This encourages children to respect others.

Children are very well behaved. They are clear about the boundaries and expectations which are explained to them and applied consistently. Children display high self-esteem and confidence as they are praised for their efforts and achievements and their work is displayed and valued.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder does not have a current first aid certificate but provided evidence that this training will be completed shortly. The premises are well organised, ensuring the children feel safe and at ease. The layout helps to maximise play opportunities. For example, the additional play space the conservatory offers allows children scope to participate in a range of different activities. This means that they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning.

The childminder works in partnership with his wife who is a childminder in her own right. They work very well as a team and share effectively the care of the children.

Written policies and daily diaries are used to inform the parents of the service and to inform them of their children's activities and achievements. This approach helps to contribute to the continuity in the children's care. The childminder has all required documentation in place, which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- update knowledge of first aid to ensure children's safety.

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