



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY233948
Inspection date	01 November 2006
Inspector	Silvia Richardson
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 and two children aged six and three years. They live in a house close to shops, parks, library and public transport links. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding four children on a part-time basis, ages one, five, six and seven years. The family have no pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play and move around in a clean and comfortable home, because the childminder has good routines for promoting children's welfare. She uses anti bacterial wipes, so that surfaces, equipment and toys are maintained hygienically clean and minimise risk of spread infection. Children are encouraged to wash their hands routinely, before snacks and meals and after using the bathroom, so that they develop good personal hygiene habits. Children use paper towels for drying hands, helping to prevent cross infection. Children's health and welfare are promoted well, through the childminder keeping appropriate records and excluding children if they are infectious.

Children are well nourished, because the childminder offers a wide range and variety of fruit and vegetables with meals. Children are learning to make healthy choices, because the childminder talks to children about foods which are good for them and those which are less beneficial. They have a good understanding of how to protect their teeth and are encouraged to brush them after meals. Children enjoy an active life style, because the childminder takes them out most days. They enjoy walks to the park to feed the ducks and visit community groups, where they use a range of play equipment, helping them to develop physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the freedom to move around the ground floor of the home and choose where to play, because all areas are safely maintained. Safety measures include a gate fitted across the bottom of the stairs to make them inaccessible. Sockets are fitted with covers to protect children from the dangers of electricity and the blind cords are securely tied back to prevent accidents. Some good safety precautions in the kitchen/dining area enable children to play safely, such as locks on cupboards, making dangerous substances inaccessible to children. Fire safety precautions include a fire blanket in the kitchen and well thought through evacuation procedures, help to keep children safe.

Children are learning how to stay safe when playing and using equipment, because the childminder talks to children about potential dangers, such as what might happen if they throw a toy. She encourages children to sit up at the table when using scissors and tools and explains how to use these safely. Children know it is not safe to jump on furniture or run around inside, because the childminder clearly explains safety rules, so that they know how to stay safe in the home. The childminder teaches children how to walk along pavements and cross roads safely when out, so that they stay safe. Children are kept safe should child protection concerns arise, because the childminder knows how to respond and make an appropriate referral.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled, because the childminder provides a secure and stimulating play and learning environment. Children make choices from a wide range and variety of easily accessible toys and play materials, so that they are purposefully occupied. Children actively explore and use resources constructively, because the childminder enthusiastically participates in children's play. She talks to children all the time, developing their speech and language, knowledge and understanding, so that they make very good progress. The schedule of activities is well balanced, so that children enjoy play and learning experiences in the home and garden and during visits to parks, shops and community groups.

Children's care needs are well met, because the childminder is very attentive to these. She ensures children have regular snacks, meals and rest times according to their individual needs. Care routines are promoting children's welfare and well being, because the childminder interacts with children in a warm and caring manner, so that they are nurtured and encouraged. Activities meet the needs of children across the age ranges and planning addresses the specific needs of school age children. There is less planning for the developmental needs of younger children, although they are integrated very well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are supported and encouraged to make full use of the provision, promoting equality of opportunity. Boys and girls have equal access to role play resources and construction activities, avoiding gender stereotyping. Toys and play materials reflect diversity, so that children enjoy positive images of different races and cultures, promoting their understanding. The childminder builds on children's learning at school, in the home setting, by offering practical activities, such as making lanterns and masks, covering a range of cultural and religious festivals. The childminder is prepared to care for children with disabilities and would like to take some further training, so that she can fully address specific needs.

Children behave well in the setting, because the childminder actively promotes social skills. She encourages children to be polite, courteous and think of others. She is clear about safety and social rules, so that children learn and know how to behave in acceptable ways. In agreement with parents, children may take some 'time out' if necessary, to think about their behaviour. The childminder talks with children and helps them integrate well with the group, so that the atmosphere is happy and settled. Positive relationships with parents are well established, so that children receive consistent care. Parents have good opportunities to talk each day with the childminder, so that they are fully aware of the days' activities and events.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder and adult members of the house hold are properly vetted, ensuring they are suitable to work and be with children. The childminder has applied to undertake further training

in childcare and early education, to enhance her already good practise with children. Records, policies and procedures are in place and these contribute effectively, to well managed childminding arrangements. Children benefiting enormously from the childminders enthusiasm and commitment, so that they enjoy a very well organised schedule of activities inside and outside of the home.

Children actively explore their environment, because it is very well organised to meet their play and learning needs. Arrangements are ensuring there is much clear floor space, so that children can spread out and play comfortably with toys and play materials. Older children sit comfortably in the dining area to use a range of creative play resources at the table. The lay out of the ground floor enables the childminder to supervise children well, whether they are playing in the lounge, dining area or conservatory. Good organisation is also enabling older children to easily access the ground floor cloakroom, so that they can develop some independence. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder is developing her knowledge and awareness of special needs through arranging training, so that she can respond well to children's needs and work effectively with parents.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- promote the outcomes of The birth to three matters framework when planning and providing activities for younger children

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