



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY299066
Inspection date	20 July 2005
Inspector	Andrea Bradshaw

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 2004. She lives with her father and adult brother. The upstairs bathroom and the whole of the ground floor are used for childminding, excluding the study and utility room. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for five children on a variety of part time placements. The childminder attends local toddler groups. The family has two cats.

The childminder can support children with special needs and is a member of the

National Childminding Association. The childminder has a NVQ level two in Early Years Practice.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where good hygiene practices help prevent the spread of infection. Their dietary needs are met through detailed recordings of their individual needs. Children learn to keep themselves healthy through the teaching of simple hygiene tasks such as hand washing and wiping their nose. The childminder ensures the children's health is protected, as toys are regularly cleaned and also through the use of individual face cloths. The childminder has an effective clear written policy regarding sickness and exclusion periods, this helps maintain some aspects of children's health.

Children have access to balanced and varied diet, in line; with their parents wishes, this supports their health and wellbeing. Children can access drinks throughout the day this helps to ensure children stay healthy. Children learn the importance of a healthy diet through the childminder's examples and explanations.

Children have the opportunity to expand and develop physically through the regular use of the garden and local amenities for physical play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children can access a good range of safe toys and resources that promote their growing independence, and children move freely and confidently in their play area. Children have a sense of belonging within the setting as their work is displayed and they have designated play area that is well equipped with a good range of resources. Children use a good range of safe, good quality resources including items for physical play, role play and creativity.

Children learn the boundaries that they need to keep themselves safe, such as not to run in the house. They are encouraged to play in an environment kept safe by the childminder, who has a good recognition of the need to balance between freedom and safe limits. She uses effective clear strategies to achieve this. Children are kept safe and the risk of accidental injury is minimised by the childminder taking precautions both in and out of the home.

Children are protected from harm because the childminder knows the procedures, and her responsibilities and who to contact in the event of child protection concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and happy in the stimulating surroundings and designated play area. Warm relationships are formed between the childminder and the children as they talk and laugh together, whilst playing with the dolls house, cars and drawing. This fosters children's self esteem. The children freely exchange smiles to the childminder and she responds with signs of affection, and ensures the children feel happy and confident in her care by offering reassurance. This allows children to develop relationships with close adults.

The childminder uses local amenities to provide children with different play environments such as visits to the library and the local park, where they can play with other children. This enhances their social skills and awareness of the world around them. Children can develop and extend their learning through effective questioning and explanations.

Children are given opportunities to write their name, link sounds to letters and images. Children are encouraged to make choices and play independently or cooperatively. This helps foster their self esteem and their social skills. Children are able to express themselves through a variety of means and can engage in planned and free play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop some appreciation of the world around them as they play with the dolls house and dolls showing diversity. Other resources are not easily accessible for children. This limits their understanding of the world we live in. Children's individual needs are met by the childminder recording information on their specific requirements, and responding to their needs. Children's special needs and welfare are safe guarded with the childminder's knowledge of where to seek advice and support, if concerns are raised.

Children learn to negotiate and take turns by simple rules, explanations and examples given by the childminder. This ensures they learn to manage their behaviour and enhance their social skills. Children's self esteem is fostered by the childminder celebrating their achievements positively.

Children benefit from the positive relationships that the childminder builds with parents, giving them daily verbal feedback, and written information on the policies and procedures, pertaining to the provision.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures children are protected by only being cared for by vetted adults. The childminder is aware of her responsibilities to inform the regulator of any changes in the household or the conditions of her registration.

The childminder rarely cares for the maximum amount of children and offers a high child to adult ratio. This helps the childminder to meet the child's specific requirements and give each child individual attention. Children can access their own play room which is well organised, bright and welcoming. This ensures the smooth running of the provision and children feel welcome and content in the childminders care.

The childminder is committed to expanding her knowledge of child development through training, this will benefit children's well being. Most documentation is in place and up to date, with the exclusion of written permission for emergency medical treatment. Overall the setting meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- further enhance the toys and resources showing positive images of diversity
- ensure written permission is sought for emergency medical treatment.

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