



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY334925
Inspection date	11 December 2006
Inspector	Elaine Margaret Hayward
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and children aged six and three years in Halesowen on the outskirts of Birmingham. Areas of the ground floor are used for childminding with access to the upstairs family bathroom plus a bedroom available if required for sleeping babies. The family have a cat and goldfish as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She is currently minding one child under the age of five part-time, and two children before and after school. The childminder walks to nearby schools and nurseries to take and collect children. She makes use of local facilities such as parks and shops.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder takes positive steps to promote children's good health and hygiene through her encouragement and good practice. She encourages children to take responsibility for meeting their own health needs as they wash their hands before eating and after toileting. Positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection, with the use of anti-bacterial handwash and clean towels daily. Children's welfare is promoted due to clear exclusion periods for children who have had sickness. The childminder acts in the children's best interests if they are ill, by comforting the children and contacting parents. She has appropriate procedures in place to ensure that accidents and any medication are appropriately recorded and shared with parents. However, she does not hold an appropriate first aid certificate which includes training for infants and young children. This places children's health and safety at risk and is a breach of her conditions of registration.

The childminder provides a varied range of activities to support children's physical development, and children develop a sound awareness of how to keep healthy through being active. They benefit from the fresh air each day as they walk to school and nursery. They regularly visit local parks to use the play equipment, and where they have space to run around and play games.

Children's individual dietary needs are well met because of the close liaison with parents and the childminder's adherence to their wishes. Children enjoy balanced and nutritious home-cooked meals provided by the childminder, such as roast chicken with jacket potato and sweetcorn followed by choices of fruit and ice-cream. Children make choices regarding what they would like to eat for breakfast and lunch, with their understanding of healthy eating promoted as they are encouraged to help. They choose from a range of fresh fruit for snacks. Filtered water, fruit juices and milk shakes are available at all times to ensure that children do not become dehydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a child-friendly environment which is warm and welcoming. Children choose from a balanced range of resources which are safe and age-appropriate. Risks are identified and minimised, enabling children to move around safely, freely and independently. There are appropriate measures to keep children safe, such as stairgates across doorways. There are appropriate procedures, including clear visibility, to ensure the safe arrival and collection of children. Children's safety is however, potentially compromised, as there are no written parental consents for children to be transported in a vehicle. Children learn about keeping themselves safe as they practise fire drills, and learn how to cross the road safely by stopping and listening at the kerbside, holding hands and walking.

The childminder demonstrates appropriate knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures in order to keep children safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's learning, development and self-esteem is appropriately promoted as they enjoy a range of activities. The childminder creates a variety of experiences to provide stimulation and fun, both indoors and out. Children talk happily of their visits to local parks where they enjoy playing dodge ball, football and tennis, or play on the swings and other equipment. The childminder knows their likes, dislikes and routines, and the children benefit from an appropriate balance of rest and active times. She observes what they can do and plans activities around their interests, such as making cards and presents. Children can be seen enjoying playing board games with the childminder. Children respond to her praise and encouragement. They contentedly come in after school, talking about what they have been doing and then sitting quietly with a book to unwind, before choosing a game to play. They are relaxed and feel at home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They are treated with equal concern. Children's individual needs are appropriately met as they follow their routines as discussed and agreed with parents. Children feel good about themselves as the childminder provides positive support, praise and encouragement to help build children's self-esteem. The childminder has sensitive understanding that some children may have disabilities or additional needs, and has appropriate procedures in place to liaise with parents and professionals in order to meet those needs. However, children experience a limited range of activities and resources to promote their understanding of diversity and the wider world.

Children behave well as they understand the clear guidelines and expectations of behaviour which are agreed with parents. Children receive praise and encouragement. They are learning to take responsibility and manage their own behaviour, tidying a game away before going on to the next activity. They share and take turns as they play 'snakes and ladders'.

There is a good partnership with parents. The childminder works closely with them to ensure that children are cared for in line with their wishes. Parents are asked about their children before they start and there is a good, flexible settling-in period. Information continues to be shared through daily discussions and, as a result, children quickly settle in her care. They feel at home and at ease.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that the needs and welfare of the children in her care is her first priority by the sound way she organises her childcare practice. As a result, the children feel at home and at ease within the well-organised and child-friendly environment. The childminder demonstrates appropriate awareness of most requirements and responsibilities to ensure the

well-being of the children, with clear documentation in place which she shares with parents. However, she does not always clearly record the actual hours of children's attendance.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 satisfactory. 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 a first aid course is completed which includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- obtain written parental permission for children to be transported in a vehicle
- develop activities and resources to promote children's understanding of diversity and the wider world
- ensure that children's hours of attendance are accurately recorded.

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