



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY336656
Inspection date	06 November 2006
Inspector	Anita Bartram

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 2006. She lives with her husband and child aged one year in Witham. The whole of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully 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 two children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has two budgerigars.

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 are beginning to develop an excellent understanding of simple hygiene routines. For example, two-year-olds need no prompting to offer to 'wash hands, with soap' when the childminder tells them she is going to make lunch. The childminder follows good hygiene routines herself when changing children's nappies or before preparing meals. As a result, children are well protected from cross-infection.

Children are very well nourished. The childminder actively promotes healthy eating with babies and children through the nutritious variety of foods she offers. For example, children are encouraged to try fresh fruit and vegetables such as cucumber and grapes alongside foods they enjoy from home. Children are able to join in activities such as making homemade pizzas to help them become familiar with different foods and textures. The childminder aims to take the children outside daily to enable them to enjoy exercise in fresh air. As a consequence, children are developing positive attitudes towards healthy living.

Children have their emotional well-being fully promoted. The childminder is fully supportive if children bring comforters and is aware of the security children gain from them. She talks warmly and respectfully to the children and helps them to have a sense of belonging in her home. For example, one minded child is able to keep his dummy and muslin square in his own special box, where he knows they will be safe until sleep time and other babies or children will not use them. As a result, babies and children are settled and secure in the childminder's care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has given full prior thought as to how she will keep children safe on specific outings, how they will be transported safely on foot or in the car or how they will remain safe in her house. For example, her written risk assessment is comprehensive in detailing potential risk and action taken to minimise it. Consequently, children are able to play and learn in a very safe and secure environment.

The childminder's house is welcoming to children. Toys and books are arranged in the living room to enable children to settle quickly into her care. Toys are plentiful and in good condition. They are stored at child height or in the toy cupboard to enable children to easily and safely choose or ask for favourite toys to play with. The childminder explains safety to children in age-appropriate language. For example, when toddlers step up onto the low rung of the stair gate she gently explains to them that they should get down as they may fall and hurt themselves. As a result, children are developing awareness for themselves of keeping safe.

The childminder has a very sound understanding of her child protection responsibilities. She regularly updates her knowledge through training and is fully aware of what to do should she be concerned that a child is being abused. As a result, effective measures are in place to safeguard children against non-accidental harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder uses valuable skills and knowledge gained through her level three childcare qualification to fully support minded children's care, learning and play. She draws upon relevant past experience of working with children to organise experiences for the children that are relevant to their age and level of understanding. For example, she plans activities for toddlers to support various developmental learning outcomes that are linked to the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Consequently, babies and children are able to enjoy purposeful activities linked to the next steps in their development or learning.

The childminder takes children out to various local amenities such as the library, singing group and toddler groups. This encourages children's social development and helps them to build confidence in a variety of settings. The childminder encourages positive relationships with the children through her warm and respectful interaction with the children of all ages. She sits with them on the floor whilst they play asking open-ended questions to the children. For example, the childminder asks toddlers to talk about what they have chalked on the easel and then expands their vocabulary as she uses new words to repeat back what they have just said. As a result, children are able to acquire new skills and enjoy challenge in their learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of how to manage children's behaviour. She speaks calmly and confidently to children about what they are doing and uses positive strategies. For example, she distracts or re-directs children towards other toys to manage any disputes or problems over sharing or turn taking. As a result, children are developing very worthwhile skills for themselves about how to play co-operatively with each other.

There are many opportunities for children to decide for themselves about what they want to play with. The childminder responds actively to children's requests for new toys from the toy cupboard or to have another drink. Consequently, children's self-esteem is well fostered and they are becoming confident to express their needs and wishes. The childminder has an adequate range of resources reflecting positive images of diversity. These enable children to begin to form a balanced view of their wider world around them.

The childminder is proactive in her working relationships with parents. She has developed very thorough policies and procedures which parents can view before placing their child in her care. Parents are encouraged by the childminder to add their own comments to daily diaries that she sends home detailing babies' and young children's routines and activities. This valuable two-way communication means children are able to receive very high levels of consistency in their care. The childminder uses past training in special educational needs to inform her care practice. As a result, children's individual developmental needs are effectively supported.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is very well organised in her care of the children. She plans and prepares activities before children arrive and rotates the variety of toys during the day. This means children do not become bored with toys and have a stimulating range of activities to enjoy. She organises the children's daily routines and weekly activities to enable children to participate in an excellent range of experiences covering all aspects of their development.

The childminder is aware of the required vetting procedures and how to protect children from un-vetted visitors to her home. The childminder has all the required documentation in place and has further comprehensive policies and procedures that work very well in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and their ability to make a positive contribution. Before their child starts, parents are given valuable written information about the childminder's care practice. This enables parents to make informed choices about the care of their child.

Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the first inspection since registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration, there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the childminder or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The childminder 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):

- increase the variety of resources to help children build a balanced view of their wider world around them.

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