

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY346089
Inspection date	05 July 2007
Inspector	Benita Catherine Hart

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 lives with her husband and two children aged 12 and three years in a house in Bulkington in Warwickshire. She uses the whole of the house for childminding and there is an enclosed rear garden which is safe and suitable for outdoor play. The family have two dogs and a rabbit.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time and is currently minding two children under five for two days a week.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment which is welcoming and child-orientated. They learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through the childminder's effective practice and good hygiene standards throughout the home. This minimises the risk of infection and cross-contamination. Children receive good attention for their personal needs through secure daily routines. They understand they must wash their hands after going to the toilet,

before food, after handling the pets and playing in the garden. A written sick child policy, which parents are aware of, protects other children in the childminder's care. All accident and medication records are up-to-date and the childminder has a current first aid certificate. Therefore she is able to deal with accidents and emergencies through having suitable training and maintaining accurate records.

Children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills and enjoy the benefits of fresh air through daily access to outdoor play in the garden and trips to the park. There is a good selection of equipment in the garden for riding, climbing and playing games. Children also enjoy regular opportunities to use music for dance and exercise through planned and spontaneous activities.

The children's dietary needs and preferences are discussed with parents and children are provided with healthy snacks and meals. Children are encouraged in healthy eating habits and to choose healthy options. They are provided with drinks throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. They are able to move freely around the house and garden because potential hazards have been minimised by the use of safety equipment and the childminder's good supervision. The premises are secure and children know where they can play safely and understand the restriction of safety gates and locked cupboards. Toys and resources are plentiful and children benefit from having space for movement and play. Children are able to choose their own resources and activities from clearly labelled and accessible storage boxes.

Children are well protected from fire in the home as the childminder has put precautions in place such as smoke detectors, a fitted fireguard and a fire blanket. The childminder has a written procedure for evacuating the premises and children have regular opportunities to practise the fire drill.

Children's welfare is protected by the childminder's understanding of her role and responsibilities in keeping the children safe from harm. She has attended child protection training and has a secure knowledge of child protection issues and of the procedure to follow should she have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. They benefit from a broad range of activities which are planned by the childminder but flexible to the children's overall needs. The environment is child-orientated and toys and resources are easily accessible. Activities are planned to stimulate the children's interest and enjoyment. Children have good opportunities to initiate their own play and the childminder encourages independence and choice whilst being a supportive and enabling carer. This encourages the children's confidence and self-esteem.

Children's welfare is promoted by the childminder's secure understanding of meeting the children's varying needs in the day. For example, giving good attention to the baby's individual needs for eating, sleeping and exchanging information with parents. They also have opportunities to socialise with other children through toddler group and nursery. The children have developed

positive relationships with each other and the childminder. They enjoy a balanced day of activities which are stimulating but allow for quiet times, times of rest and outdoor play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's organisation of activities to provide an inclusive provision for all the children and any learning difficulties and/or disabilities would be catered for appropriately. The daily routine is flexible and takes into account the children's individual needs. Children are becoming increasingly aware of diversity within society through books and resources. They are learning about other cultures, festivals and special days through activities and play materials. For example, the childminder will use food and craft activities to develop the children's understanding. The children are respected and valued as individuals and the childminder encourages a sharing, caring environment. They are learning right from wrong through consistent boundaries, praise and age appropriate methods to manage their behaviour.

The children's care is well fostered due to the positive relationship the childminder has with parents. Regular information is exchanged with parents and their wishes and preferences are taken into account. The childminder gives parents information about her setting and a copy of policies and procedures. She has not, however, devised a recording system for complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a relaxed, homely environment. The childminder makes good use of the space in her home and garden so that children can play in comfort both indoors and outside. They enjoy a balanced day which fits into their needs with a good mix of directed and free activities.

All documentation for the safe management of the children is in place. The childminder's records are up-to-date, well-maintained and stored appropriately. The children are happy, settled and well occupied and spend their time purposefully with the childminder. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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 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):

- consider how a complaint would be investigated and 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