

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY357218
Inspection date	14 April 2008
Inspector	Esther Gray
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 2007. She lives with her husband and four children aged 14, 11, seven and five in Rednal, Birmingham. She also works with a co-minder who has a three-year-old child of her own. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and 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 when working with a co minder or assistant may care for a maximum of six children. They are currently caring for six children, of these two children are aged over eight years.

The childminder walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family have three guinea pigs. The childminder is supportive of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminders Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to appreciate the importance of good hygiene when attending to their personal hygiene. For instance, they are encouraged to brush their teeth after lunch. When caring for and petting the family guinea pigs they are also encouraged to wash their hands directly afterwards. There is also a poster to remind older children, independently using the first floor bathroom, to wash their hands. Consequently, in addition to the positive steps taken by the childminder to prevent the spread of infection, she is also successful in teaching children about the benefits of hygiene to their health.

Children are well-nourished. Although there are no prepared menus to share with parents the childminder describes a range of healthy food choices provided for children. These include fruit and vegetables and readily available drinks. This allows children to drink whenever they feel thirsty and prevent dehydration. They have good opportunities to learn about healthy eating in cookery activities. For example, children make cakes and savoury muffins. This allows children to try new tastes and textures and learn about ingredients in familiar foods as well as discuss making healthy food choices for themselves.

Children enjoy good, varied opportunities to experience physical activity and develop their skills. Outdoors they enjoy routine trips to the park and other venues, such as the nearby Nature Centre, where public facilities include climbing frames and other equipment. A well-organised, secure outdoor space allows children to play outdoors in the fresh air with regularity. Indoors, children enjoy developing their dexterity in art and craft. Younger children have space to develop their strength as they learn to take their first steps. As a result, they are physically and emotionally healthy, making healthy choices and this promotes healthy lifestyles.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The co-minders make safety of children their first priority. The resident childminder takes first responsibility in preparing her home for children's arrival and the co-minder checks visually around the home on her arrival for work. This means there are two pairs of eyes diligently checking all areas used by children. Children are secure and well-supervised. The indoor and outdoor areas are kept secure with locks. All areas of the property are well-maintained and kept in good order. The temperature of the conservatory areas are monitored and all areas are well-ventilated. Children always use a wide range of equipment that is suitable and safe. This includes access to sand play both indoors and outdoors which is checked for safety before use.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe. They regularly rehearse the fire evacuation procedure with the childminder and a colourful poster reminds them of the process. Younger children are learning to take care whilst babies play in safety nearby. They are learning not to put things that are a potential hazard into their mouth and to walk with care around the house so that they do not harm themselves or others. Out and about whilst restrained by safety equipment or in the road safety rules they learn, all children are becoming aware of hazards and how to keep safe in the outdoors environment.

Children are well-protected from harm because the childminder has a good understanding of her role in child protection. She is able to put appropriate procedures into practice. She keeps

parents informed of her role and responsibilities and has a good system of record keeping to safeguard children in her care. As a result, children's welfare is suitably safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures that there are enough materials for all children and allows children to find, use and return materials independently in their spontaneous play. There are materials that reflect diversity and many resources to choose from. The layout of the rooms allows for messy play, and provides space for rest and relaxation. Children's interests are followed. For example, they enjoy carrying out 'make overs' on colouring sheets. These provide them with blank faces from which they make up their own designs on faces of their own choosing. This leads to further opportunities to consider their feelings and emotions and to look at similarities and differences in people of the wider community. Consequently, children are confident, independent and developing their self-esteem.

Children have their individual needs met and are developing a good range of knowledge and skills because the childminder provides opportunities for children to develop their own spontaneous play. She recognises the developmental needs of children as she takes note of observations made. However, she is not using these notes to develop effective plans to provide activities and play opportunities that help children make further progress effectively. Activities are planned to enable children to be a member of a social group, to be involved with the older children for part of the day and to encourage conversation and develop their social skills very well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Good arrangements are made to ensure all children are included. There are sufficient, suitable resources and activities to help children learn about a diverse society through their play. Older children enjoy dressing up and discuss diversity as part of their play with the childminder. However, there are no planned activities to promote their understanding of the wider multicultural environment further. Younger children are encouraged to take part in all play activities and their individual needs are taken into account when organising the play environment. Privacy and ability are accounted for in the arrangements for intimate care and organisation of toys made easily available for them to play with.

Children are becoming aware of their own needs and respect the needs of others. Older children are asked to consider younger children as they move safely around the setting. They have developed a set of rules, which are all framed in positive language and are reasonable and achievable. Younger children are praised when they do well. This means they are able to develop a positive self-image and confidence in their carers. This allows them to share any concerns or worries they may have with the childminder. Children benefit from a calm and supportive approach and learn right from wrong through careful explanation and consistency.

The exchange of information is effective. For example, the childminder has developed a joint-prospectus with her co-minder, which is shared with parents, who have access to policies and procedures, children's records and attractive notices, which decorate the conservatory. This informs parents and carers about routines children will be engaged in during the week. There is some involvement in children's learning as she has begun sharing observations made

about progress children are making with parents. As a result, children settle confidently to play as they see both childminder and parents giving consistent messages and working well together.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from good, effective organisation of the setting. The childminder has completed all required courses in first aid and introduction to childminding and continues to develop her knowledge and skills by attending a diploma course in child care. In addition, further education opportunities have been undertaken and more are identified for the future. This demonstrates a commitment to continual improvement. Although there is a clear sense of purpose the childminder has not yet developed a system of self-evaluation. She has many years experience as a mother of teenage children and provides a well-organised home and routine for children who attend the setting.

Children are protected from harm as the childminder is aware of the importance of ensuring that all unvetted visitors are suitable and are not left unattended with children in the setting or whilst on outings. Some well thought out documentary systems and information allow the two childminders to work effectively together to provide good continuity of care for children and families. Policies and procedures protect children sufficiently and are effectively implemented to promote good outcomes for children. Records are available and retained for inspection. They are well-organised and kept confidential. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

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.

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 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):

- extend the range of planned activities and experiences for children, appropriate for their stages of development and based on their individual needs

- ensure children have access to a broad range of resources and activities which reflect diversity.

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