

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY357836
Inspection date	03 April 2008
Inspector	Karen Cooper
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 2007. She lives with her partner and three children aged 15, 11 and three years in Wolverhampton. The location is convenient for schools, shops and a park. The ground floor of the property and the toilet and small bedroom on the first floor are used for childminding purposes.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time. She is currently minding two children, one of whom attends on full-time basis. The childminder walks to the local nursery and school to take and collect children. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder gives high priority to ensuring that children's individual needs are provided for, particularly in relation to hygiene. Effective procedures are in place to reduce the risk of cross-infection, for example, children are provided with their own towels and the childminder

ensures that they understand the importance of hand washing before eating and after using the toilet. The childminder is trained to administer first aid and all the required documentation and written consents are in place for accidents and medication, which are shared with parents.

Children's individual dietary needs are met effectively, as these are discussed with parents and details of specific dietary needs are recorded. Food provided by the parents is stored appropriately. The childminder ensures that children are provided with a range of healthy snacks such as fruit and salad. Water, juice and squash are always available to ensure the children remain hydrated. The childminder has attended a Food Safety course.

Children enjoy a range of indoor and outdoor activities which contribute to their good health and well-being, for example, they frequently join in with soft ball games, regularly walk to the local park to feed the ducks and enjoy visiting the library where they join in with story time. The childminder recognises the importance of physical activity and how it promotes children's good health and development and although the garden is not used for childminding purposes, good use is made of the local amenities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and welcoming environment. Children are able to select activities from a varied range of good quality toys and resources which offer challenge and are appropriate to their stage of development. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises the use of toys to make sure they are safe and used appropriately by the children.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety; she is vigilant and supervises children well. Children benefit from a range of safety measures already in place to minimise hazards which enables them to explore their surroundings safely, for example, covers are fitted to low-level electrical sockets and safety gates and guards are used to prevent access to the fires and stairs. Good attention is paid to security and there are clear procedures to ensure children are collected only by authorised people, for example, passwords are used when necessary for extra protection. The childminder gives good priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe, for example, she clearly explains the reason why they must sit when eating, particularly when eating fruit that contains stones. Appropriate fire equipment such as a fire blanket and smoke detectors are provided and are regularly checked to ensure they are in good working order. All other aspects of fire safety are given good attention. The childminder ensures children are safe when on outings and takes appropriate information such as parent contact numbers in case of an emergency.

Children are protected from possible harm or neglect because the childminder is knowledgeable about child protection. She is careful to restrict other people's access to her home and to children whilst she is childminding. She is fully aware of her role and responsibility in protecting children in her care and knows the procedure to follow should she have concern about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and have formed good relationships with the childminder and her family. Children are given time to play and learn independently and benefit from being able to take part in a wide range of worthwhile and interesting activities. The childminder ensures children have a varied day and they enjoy activities which contribute to their creativity and

imagination, for example, drawing, role play, books, art and craft activities and construction. During routines and activities children are naturally introduced to colours, letters, numbers and shapes.

The organisation of the home and use of appropriate resources helps younger children become increasingly independent. Children's self-esteem and confidence are promoted because the childminder encourages children to take part in activities in a safe and supportive environment. The childminder is reassuring to children and listens carefully to what they are saying and helps children distinguish between right and wrong by encouraging them to play well together.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are appropriately supported because the childminder encourages them to feel welcome in her home. Their care needs are discussed with parents and routines and preferences are followed, this helps children to settle in and feel a sense of belonging. Children choose from a range of resources which help them make progress in their development however, their knowledge of diversity is not sufficiently promoted because resources that promote positive images of disability, culture and gender are limited. The childminder is sensitive towards inclusion. She recognises the importance of continuing discussions with parents to ensure all children's needs are met and stated that she would care for any child as long as she could meet their needs.

Children's behaviour and their sense of right and wrong is developed through the childminder's understanding of behaviour management. They develop an understanding of responsible behaviour because the childminder encourages them to play safely with toys and equipment, to share and to be kind to each other.

The childminder ensures that parents' wishes are respected and that she talks to them on a daily basis to ensure children benefit from a two way sharing of information. A communication book is shared with parents of very young children. Written policies and procedures ensure parents are well informed of their child's progress and of the service offered.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced through the effective organisation of resources. The childminder makes good use of space to ensure all children have the opportunity to complete activities, relax, sit together at mealtimes and play in comfort. Children benefit from well-established routines which have a good regard for their individual routines. Regular visits outside of the home contribute to children's learning and enjoyment of the local environment. Children are confident and feel at home and at ease within this family environment.

Children's good health, safety, enjoyment and achievement are promoted effectively through the use of recording procedures which are shared with parents. All documentation is stored securely and organised to maintain confidentiality. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children in her care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not Applicable as this is the first inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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 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):

- develop children's knowledge and understanding of diversity, for example, by increasing resources that reflect positive images of culture, disability and gender.

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