

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY359163
Inspection date	17 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 two children aged 13 months and nine in Hollywood, Worcestershire. There are shops and schools within easy walking distance. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding seven children. Of these three children are aged under five and are cared for during the day and four children aged over five, before and after school. She attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis and is able to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. The childminder has a Diploma in Nursery Nursing.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Areas used by children for play are kept clean and tidy. Nappy changing takes place in a safe and suitable way to ensure good hygiene in disposal of nappies and good systems are used to ensure there is no potential for cross-infection in the process. There are clear documentary systems in place to inform parents of the need to keep children at home if they are ill and to inform them of how they are cared for if there is an accident or they become ill whilst at the setting. The childminder maintains her first aid qualification and obtains permission to summon emergency medical care to assist if necessary. As a result, positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures taken when children are injured or ill so that health needs are met.

Children are well-nourished. Although there is no menu available to share with parents, a good variety of meals is provided and discussed with parents which ensure they are healthy, nutritious and meet children's individual dietary requirements. The children are developing their appreciation of health eating. The childminder has not used topics or activities to develop children's appreciation of the value of making healthy choices in their diet, however, older children are encouraged as they share a meal with the family later in evening at table to appreciate the importance of good nutrition on their health and growth. Children have access to their drinks at all times. This prevents them from becoming dehydrated. As a result, children's health is promoted by a wholesome, nutritious and balanced diet.

Children are encouraged to play outdoors in the fresh air and walk in the local areas to feed ducks in the park and visit local play areas. Children develop their physical skills both indoors and outside very well. There are a number of resources for children to use, both indoors and outside, which help them develop these skills. For example, younger children learn to pull themselves up to standing and are aided with toys in learning to walk and older children can play games in the garden with balls and other toys. This ensures children make good progress in their physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The provider ensures precautions are taken to prevent accidents and minimise identified risks to children. She visually checks areas children will use before they arrive. However, two socket covers remain uncovered and this leaves a potential risk to children. The childminder has risk assessed the use of the outdoor play area and children are managing the steps in the garden well, however, she is still assessing the levels of supervision required as there is a drop from the garden onto the patio which requires maximum supervision. Children learn about what is dangerous and how to keep themselves safe. They are learning to follow rules which keep them safe as they manage steps and learn about fire safety. Younger children are able to investigate and explore their surroundings safely in the play room where toys are sorted into suitable containers to ensure they play with age-appropriate toys. As a result, children are secure and well-supervised in their use of the space and a safe and suitable range of equipment and toys.

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 has undertaken some training in the past as a staff member at a nursery setting in the Birmingham

area. She also has obtained the information to follow Worcestershire Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and keeps this information to hand to enable her to make contact if she has any concerns. She has made parents aware of her role and responsibilities in her policies and procedures. As a result, children are suitably safeguarded from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has not yet attended any training on Early Years Foundation Stage or used the framework, 'Birth to three matters', both of which help child care practitioners in the care of younger children to ensure they develop to their full potential. Nevertheless, she has used her qualification and previous training in nursery nursing to plan the layout and use of resources for children very well. The childminder is engaged in children's play prioritising her time and leaving domestic tasks, such as cleaning up mess from lunch, until children are settled and needing less attention or have gone home. She knows the children who she is caring for very well. She obtains sufficient information about them before they start, to enable her to meet their individual needs well.

Children are developing their confidence and independence. The routines revolve around individual children's routines and the need for them to make trips to nursery or school. As a result, children are able to be involved with older children for part of the day, which encourages conversation and develops their social skills. Children are able to access resources independently and develop their own play, or move between messy play activities at the breakfast table to quieter activities in the play room or sitting room. This promotes good self-esteem as they can feel happy and relaxed with the childminder settling very well into her care.

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. All children are able to find use and return their own resources easily. Children are able to choose books, for example, from the library, which reflect positive images from a wide variety of cultures and are chosen to meet children's own interests. Their individual care needs are well met and privacy is assured. All facilities are found on the ground floor, which allows those with disability to access resources easily. As a result, children are valued as individuals which actively promotes inclusion.

The exchange of information is practical and effective. There is, for example, a portfolio of information, which includes policies and procedures, examples of children's activities, displays of information and some art work on a notice board. The policies include, for example, a behaviour management policy. This information shares strategies which will be used to correct unacceptable behaviour. The policy is agreed with parents and includes house rules. The consistency required to correct things such as biting are agreed with parents and praise and a happy environment is encouraged. The childminder uses a lot of praise for success and, for instance, encourages good manners and a social environment at meal times. This includes consideration given by older children to those younger children still present at the end of the day. Children behave well in proportion to their level of understanding and maturity because the childminder creates an environment that encourages children to respect boundaries and begin to control their own behaviour.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from good organisation of the setting. The childminder is clear about the regulations and the importance of meeting the conditions of her registration. She has good documentary systems to support her in safeguarding children. Policies and procedures protect children sufficiently and are shared with parents. Records are available and retained for inspection. They are well organised and kept confidential. 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.

Children are well cared for in a setting where the childminder is suitably qualified and keen to continue to update her skills and knowledge by attending training. She has not undertake any additional training recently, however, she has identified that the priority is in obtaining information and updating her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage which is required for the care and education of children from birth to five years in the near future. The routines and good organisation of the daily care arrangements revolve around children's individual care needs and their needs. 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 risks and hazards are identified and reduced effectively both inside and outside.

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