

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY367280
Inspection date	21 August 2008
Inspector	Sally Wride
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 2008. She lives with her husband, brother-in-law and her child aged one year old, in a house situated close to Worcester city centre. There are local shops, parks, playing fields, pre-schools and schools within easy walking distance. The whole of the ground floor and upstairs sleeping and bathroom facilities are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have one pet cat.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding two children, one of whom attends on a part-time basis.

The childminder attends local carer and toddler groups on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and is able to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a clean and warm home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They have access to good quality hand washing resources and facilities and benefit from individual disposable hand towels which helps to reduce the risk of cross-infection. The childminder applies stringent strategies to prevent cross-infection, for example, the safe storage of foods and exclusion of children who have an infectious disease. She consistently and thoroughly washes her hands after each nappy change, wears disposable aprons and cleans the changing mat after each use.

Children thrive because of their participation in a broad range of healthy activities. They make excellent use of the garden to enjoy the fresh air and develop their skills using a range of equipment. Their physical development is further enhanced through regular use of local parks and playgrounds. During these visits children develop and extend their skills on a range of age-appropriate apparatus.

Children benefit from an excellent range of home cooked, healthy and nutritious meals and snacks which include plenty of fruit and fresh vegetables in the rotating three week menu. Fresh drinks are readily available to children at all times, ensuring that they are well hydrated. The needs of children who have specific dietary requirements are respected and met due to the childminder's knowledge and through close working and daily discussions with parents. Mealtimes are sociable occasions with the children and the childminder enjoying a shared meal. They also enjoy regular picnics in the warmer weather. Children help to prepare foods for their meals and take part in frequent baking activities. Younger children are encouraged to feed themselves and table manners are actively encouraged. The childminder works in partnership with parents over the children's food intake and keeps them well informed about what the children have eaten during their time at the setting.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure indoor and outdoor environment. The layout of available space allows them to freely move between well spread out activities and for easy access to an excellent range of high quality toys and resources. Children independently select what they would like to play with, making decisions about how they would like to spend their time. All toys and resources are regularly cleaned and checked for their safety to ensure that they are safe and hygienic for the children to use.

The childminder is proactive in conducting visual risk assessment checks before the children arrive and periodically throughout the course of the day to ensure that their care environment is safe and free from hazards. Children gain an understanding of the actions that they should take in the event of an emergency through regular fire evacuation practises. They develop an understanding of road safety as they use the stop, look and listen technique when crossing the road.

Children's welfare is safeguarded through the childminder's excellent knowledge and understanding of the known indicators of child abuse and of the actions that she should take in the event of a concern about a child in her care. She has a solid understanding of Local

Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures and has also attended relevant training courses, with further courses booked for the near future. Robust procedures are in place for the safe arrival and collection of children, ensuring that children are only released to known and authorised adults.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy and confident and interact positively with the childminder and their peers, eagerly seeking them out to participate in their activities. They are encouraged to make the most of their experiences and their interest is further stimulated with simple questions which encourage them to think. They respond positively to the praise and encouragement offered to them which promotes their self-esteem very well. Children are making very good developmental progress. This is because of the childminder's excellent knowledge of child development and the constant observations she makes to ensure that children enjoy and achieve through the range of activities provided.

Children enjoy a balanced and varied range of activities and games that support, develop and extend all areas of their learning and development. They are eager to participate in planned activities and are also confident to develop their own play, knowing that they are well supported by the childminder. They enjoy arts and crafts, cooking activities and imaginative role play. Activities are adapted to meet individual development stages to ensure that all children are able to participate at their own level. The childminder is attentive to children's individual needs and tailors the daily routine to ensure that their needs are well met. Young children are very vocal and are actively listened to. The childminder gives them her full attention when they communicate, she gets down to the child's level, listens carefully and responds to them and maintains eye contact whilst involved in conversation. They are comfortable and content in the childminder's care and confidently seek her for support, comfort and cuddles. They have plenty of space to practise their crawling and walking skills, with walking aids kept nearby to support their development.

Children have the opportunity to socialise with other children through regular attendance at local toddler groups and through contact with the minded children of other local childminders. They enjoy outings each day, going for walks in the fresh air, to visit local parks and playgrounds and to local countryside centres to go and see the ducks in the pond. They enjoy sensory play opportunities as they explore the feel of sand and water and as they use resources produced from natural materials.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are respected and valued as individuals, their needs are well met and their individual likes and dislikes are well catered for. Children have access to a good range of resources that reflect positive images of diversity in everyday play situations. Their appreciation of the wider world is not, however, fully supported as the childminder has not considered how she can support children's understanding of the wider world. The childminder has a sound understanding of the advice, support and guidance that is available to her to support her in the care of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Children are well settled and happy in the childminder's care. They feel a sense of belonging and are involved in what is going on around them. They are confident in their surroundings

and with both the childminder and their peers. They are well behaved and play harmoniously together. They respond well to the childminder's calm and consistent approach to behaviour management and are able to share their toys and enjoy playing with their friends. Positive relationships have been formed with children's parents and their views and wishes are respected. Parents are kept well informed about the activities offered to their children and the progress that they are making through verbal exchanges of information at the start and end of each day and through the use of an observational daily diary.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit greatly from the calm and well-organised homely environment in which they thrive and are eager to learn and play. The space and resources are organised very effectively to ensure that children can develop their own games, access their playthings and move freely between the indoor and outdoor areas as part of their play. Daily routines are extremely well thought out and are tailored to suit children's individual routines, with regard to their sleep, eating and nappy changing routines. They enjoy an excellent range of activities and experiences, both within and outside of the home.

Children's care is greatly enhanced by the childminder's child care knowledge and wealth of experience. She is committed to continuing to extend and develop her professional knowledge through regular access to relevant training courses. This benefits children greatly as the childminder has a clear understanding of current good practice and professional advice and continuously implements new ideas into the wonderful activities and play opportunities that she provides for them. The care of the children is greatly enhanced by the childminder's forward planning and evaluations of the service that she provides.

Children's care is greatly enhanced by well-organised record keeping and documentation. All of the required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and welfare are in place. The childminder is thorough in her approach in ensuring that all documentation is reviewed and updated and robust procedures for the storage of children's details ensures confidentiality is maintained. A comprehensive range of policies and procedures are very well written and presented. They are openly shared with parents to ensure that they are fully informed of how the care of their children is organised. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

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 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):

- further extend opportunities for children to learn about the wider world.

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