



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	207373
Inspection date	16 March 2006
Inspector	Justine Ellaway

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 1997. She lives with her husband and one child aged 10 years in Derbyshire. The whole ground floor, along with the third bedroom 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five on a part time basis and five children over five before and after school and during school holidays on various days. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted as they receive appropriate care if they are ill to ensure they are comfortable. The childminder has an up to date first aid qualification to ensure children receive the most appropriate treatment in an accident. Permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice has been requested for all children, to ensure their individual health needs are met in the event of an emergency.

Children's good health is promoted and the risk of cross infection minimised, as the childminder has a clear written policy on the exclusion of children who are ill which is shared with parents. Children are consistently reminded to wash their hands before and after eating, messy play and toileting and develop an understanding of good hygiene.

Children are well nourished, they enjoy a range of meals and snacks that include fruit and vegetables. Careful consideration of the presentation of fruit encourages children to choose a healthy option at snack and meal times. The childminder gathers information from parents on children's health and dietary needs to ensure they enjoy suitable food and drink. She plans the meals so that all children can enjoy them, to ensure they feel included. Younger children's individual feeding and changing routines are known and respected to promote contentment and ensure they feel secure. Children enjoy regular and varied opportunities for physical activity. Younger children are encouraged to move about and reach for toys during play. Children regularly play in the garden with various toys and equipment and enjoy outings during the holidays to the local park where they walk or use their bikes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play safely in the bright and attractive premises, where space is used effectively to provide different areas for different activities. For example, children eat and do craft activities at the dining table and use the lounge for quiet play and rest. Children are able to choose to participate in free play or a structured activity which promotes their decision making skills. All children have access to an appealing and interesting range of good quality toys and resources, a varied selection of which are laid out for when they arrive. Children play safely with the toys and resources as the childminder is very careful to ensure that younger children do not have access to small parts.

Careful consideration of children's safety ensures that all risks and hazards are minimised indoors. For example, the childminder uses a stair gate to restrict access to certain areas. Effective procedures ensure children's safety when they are out and about. The childminder makes sure the children are always close by when they are walking with her. Children play safely in the garden as it is child friendly and fully enclosed and safety rules are explained to them. Emergency evacuation procedures are carried out regularly to ensure that children escape quickly and calmly in the

event of an emergency. Children's safety and welfare is fully promoted because the childminder clearly understands her role in child protection and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. She demonstrates a sound understanding of possible signs and symptoms. She has attended training since the last inspection and has written information she can refer to.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children receive good care and attention as the childminder constantly interacts with them during their play, stimulating learning and development. High levels of praise and encouragement mean that children's self-esteem is effectively fostered. Younger children are encouraged to move about and reach for their favourite toys as the childminder sits with them and engages in play. Children's independence and decision making are promoted well as they are able to freely access the attractive and age appropriate range of toys. A varied and interesting range of activities provides enjoyment and stimulates children's learning. Children enjoy regular art and craft and baking activities as well as free play. The childminder has begun to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to provide a range of activities and play opportunities for younger children. Children develop a good understanding of right and wrong. They relate very well to the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are included and valued by the childminder to promote a sense of belonging. For example, children are involved in making a cake for each minded child's birthday. Children receive consistent and appropriate care because the childminder has regular discussions with parents and accommodates any changes to routine. She provides a clear and informative folder of information for parents. Children with special needs receive appropriate care, as the childminder has a sound understanding of the issues.

Children's good behaviour is well promoted in the setting. The childminder establishes clear routines, as a result children know what is expected of them. Good use of positive praise and encouragement fosters children's self-esteem. A clear behaviour management policy is shared with parents to ensure consistency for minded children. Children are able to choose what they want to eat and what they play with, which promotes their independence. Children have access to a suitable range of resources to promote an understanding of wider society. They learn about different cultures through the celebration of different religious festivals.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and secure and have a good relationship with the childminder.

Children are comfortable and settled in the welcoming environment. Good organisation of the environment and resources means that children have a choice about what they do. Activities and meals are prepared before children arrive, making effective use of time to positively impact on the care provided for children. Children benefit from lots of good support, interaction and one to one time with the childminder, particularly younger children, as the childminder restricts the numbers of children she cares for.

Clear and useful written policies and procedures promotes children's health, safety, enjoyment, and achievement. All of the required permissions and documentation are in place to ensure children receive appropriate care. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to increase the range of toys and equipment to reflect people with disabilities. She has purchased some additional resources so that children develop an understanding of the wider world.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- continue to expand on the use of the Birth to three matters framework to provide activities and play opportunities for younger children.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet <i>Building better childcare: Compliments and</i>
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concerns about inspectors' judgements which is available from Ofsted's website:
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