



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	226777
Inspection date	17 May 2006
Inspector	Alexandra Brouder
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 satisfactory. 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 1987. She lives with her husband and thirteen-year-old son. Their house is on a busy road opposite a school on the outskirts of the City of Leicester, close to shops, parks and other amenities.

Most of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. She is registered to provide care for six children under eight years. Currently there are eight children on roll, between the ages of three to nine years, who attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder takes the children to the local pre-school group and attends regular meetings organised by the Leicester City Childminding Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are satisfactorily protected from the risks of infection and cross-contamination as they use a clean towel daily and use sensible hygiene practices, such as hand washing, as part of their daily routine. The childminder discusses the importance of good hygiene methods with children to develop their awareness of healthy practices. Written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is not in place for any child. As a result children's health and welfare are compromised.

Children enjoy a sound range of physical activities daily in the garden or at local groups, for example playing on climbing equipment, which promotes their health and development well.

Children have the opportunity to enjoy a varied and nutritious range of snacks and meals which appeal to them and meet their dietary needs. The childminder discusses children's dietary needs with parents and all meals are home cooked using fresh ingredients to suitably promote healthy eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe in a warm, clean environment because the childminder has identified most risks and taken suitable measures to minimise these. For example, sockets are covered and relevant fire protection equipment is in place. However, children's safety in the garden is compromised due to the accessibility of slug pellets in planted areas and patio pots. Children are made aware of safety on outings through discussion with the childminder regarding safe crossing practices.

Young children use a suitable range of safe, developmentally appropriate toys which are rotated for them to ensure they enjoy a range of experiences. They are able to choose, and help themselves to these resources, which promotes their confidence and independence. Older children have free access to the range of resources stored in the play areas which ensures that they take part in varied play experiences.

The childminder has a good awareness of child protection issues and is secure in reporting these to the appropriate authorities in order to promote children's well-being effectively.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and relaxed with the childminder and show confidence with visitors. They participate in a range of planned and free activities with some support from the childminder as needed. For example, the children present wished to play with the tea set and food. The childminder made this available to them and drank 'tea' and ate 'dinner' with them as requested. Thus developing children's imaginative skills.

Children enjoy positive relationships with the childminder which contribute to their sense of belonging and well-being. They benefit from consistent routines which enables them to feel secure and well cared for. Children communicate well with the childminder and she supports children well who have English as an additional language, through the use of familiar words in their first language. This increases their confidence and encourages them to extend their range and increase their skills.

The childminder is aware of the existence of early years' guidance such as the 'Birth to three matters' framework. However she does not currently offer care to this age group.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are warmly welcomed to the home and this enables them to feel a sense of belonging and self-worth. Children have their needs suitably met because the childminder works with parents and uses satisfactory records to ensure this. Parents are spoken with daily so that all information regarding the children's needs can be shared appropriately.

Children learn about other cultures and festivals through discussion and a range of suitable resources such as books and dressing-up clothes. Children are positively encouraged to respect each other because the childminder ensures they are cared for in an atmosphere where they have the same opportunities and are equally valued. All children are able to access the full range of resources which ensures they develop good levels of confidence and self-assurance in their play and learning. The childminder is aware that all children have differing abilities and has a positive attitude to all irrespective of their learning needs or disabilities (LDD).

Children's behaviour is managed appropriately. The childminder offers praise encouragement to all children ensuring that they develop their ability to respect the needs of others and behave well. They build on their confidence and self-esteem as they share and take turns, although younger children have to be reminded of the rules for sharing on a more regular basis to enable them to understand the needs for working together harmoniously.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are content in the comfortable environment, which helps them develop settled relationships and interest in their activities. The childminder generally follows appropriate procedures to support children's well-being and is making good use of on-going training to extend her understanding of childcare. However, not all aspects of relevant documentation are up-to-date such as children's records of attendance and permission for emergency medical advice or treatment. This impacts on children's health and well-being. In the main children's welfare is sufficiently promoted. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection the childminder was asked to request written permission for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. Although the childminder has discussed with all parents and carers of minded children that she would seek medical advice or treatment for minded children should a serious incident occur, she has not obtained this in writing which impacts on the welfare of children and therefore this remains an area of development.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report since April 2004.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- ensure that accurate records of children's attendance are maintained that include the full name of each child
- ensure that slug pellets in planted areas and patio pots are made safe and inaccessible to minded children
- request written permission from all parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- maintain a complaints log in line with changes to the National Standards in October 2005.

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