



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	220455
Inspection date	19 May 2006
Inspector	Ann Austen
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 adult child

in the Daventry area of Northamptonshire. Local amenities are within walking distance. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding, including toilet facilities. Sleeping facilities are provided on the first floor. 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 three children under five at varying times and two children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect the children. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to the local library and park. The family has two cats.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a warm and comfortable childcare environment. They learn the importance of good hygiene practices through daily routines, and become increasingly independent in their personal care. For example, they readily wash their hands after using the toilet, after messy play, and clean their teeth after meals. This is further enhanced by the childminder who provides separate wash bags for the children, and implements secure procedures for changing nappies. This sustains levels of hygiene and helps to prevent the spread of infection. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has up-to-date first aid knowledge. Clear procedures are in place in the event of accidents, for the administration of medication and if children are unwell.

Children enjoy physical activities which contribute to their good health, and have daily opportunities to get fresh air. They are able to rest and sleep according to their needs. Children go on local walks and develop skills, such as running, pedaling, steering, skipping, crawling and climbing. This promotes children's developing muscle tone, manipulative skills, balance and control. Children bounce on the bouncy castle, play hop scotch, and dance to music. This further improves children's co-ordination, balance and fitness. Children handle tools to cut the dough, build with construction resources, dig in the sand pit and make puzzles. This promotes children's hand-to-eye co-ordination and strengthens small muscles effectively.

Children's dietary requirements are met through close co-operation between the parents and the childminder. For example, the childminder ensures that the feeding patterns of babies is consistent with their routines at home, and that children eat their packed lunch appropriately. This promotes children's healthy growth and development. Meal times are relaxed, social occasions where children and adults sit together to enjoy their food, and each others company. Children develop their independence as they learn to feed themselves and develop good table manners. They are encouraged to drink throughout the session. This ensures that children remain well hydrated and comfortable.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure, welcoming home. Risks of accidental injury are minimised during indoor and outdoor activities because the childminder supervises the children well and works hard to identify potential hazards. For example, safety equipment is used according to the ages and needs of the children attending. This enables children to explore and take risks in a safe environment. Children begin to learn the importance of keeping safe by responding to the guidelines set out by the childminder. For example, children learn what to do in the event of an emergency by regularly practising the fire escape plan. They are kept safe on outings because they are closely supervised by the childminder. They learn to follow clear rules when walking to and from school and nursery. For example, walking children hold hands and younger children are safely secured and transported in buggies. Children are protected in the sun. The

childminder erects a gazebo in the garden to ensure that children can play safely in the sun, and applies sun cream in consultation with parents.

Children use a range of safe, good quality resources, furniture and equipment which supports their play and development. They are interested in and want to play with what is available. Outdoor space is arranged for the children's safe play and is well resourced with toys and equipment.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, relaxed and settled in the childminder's care. They purposefully engage in an interesting range of activities that develop their emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities. The childminder is continuing to implement the 'Birth to three matters' framework to further enhance her current good practice. Children enjoy their play, and independently select resources which builds on their natural curiosity as learners. They learn at their own pace and complete activities in their own time. Children experience warm, caring relationships with the childminder, who listens to and talks to the children about what they are doing. This encourages children to think and promotes their language development. Children enjoy activities which promote their creative development. They sing songs, such as 'Old MacDonald had a farm', and enthusiastically accompany their singing with musical instruments, such as, the xylophone. Children explore dough, cut and stick, paint pictures and make models out of recycled materials. They regularly participate in cooking activities. Children make hedgehog bread rolls, banana muffins and pizza. They enjoy using their imaginations during role play, and take on family roles or those of familiar people in the community. For example, children pretend to be a doctor, by giving the childminder an injection and checking her blood pressure. Children look at books for enjoyment, differentiate colours with growing confidence, and play games such as picture pairs, laughing aloud when they imitate the sound of the monkey. Children enjoy regular outings, for example, they attend local toddler groups, visit the library, and enjoy trips to the country park, zoo and the blue bells woods. This broadens children's range of experiences. Older children enjoy a relaxed session at the end of the school day. They are able to choose freely from the activities provided. For example, children enjoy creative art activities, such as making peg dolls, creating cards and decorating Easter eggs, and have fun being active in the garden.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They are eager to attend and are confident in their relationships with the childminder, who has a warm, caring relationship with the children. Clear routines to the day help children feel safe and secure. This increases children's sense of belonging and promotes their emotional development. Their curiosity is fostered well as they explore different materials such as play dough, the sand and creative art activities. Children begin to develop a positive view of society and the wider world. They have opportunities to meet different individuals at children's groups and as they explore the local environment. Children play with resources which reflect diversity. For example, children look at books, and

handle small world figures that acknowledge other cultures and help children appreciate the need of people with disabilities. Children show consideration towards the needs of others, and learn, for example, how to use 'makaton' as a form of communication.

Children behave and respond well to the childminders appropriate behaviour management strategies that take into account their age and stage of development. They receive positive support, praise and encouragement. This builds children's confidence and self-esteem. Children's care, welfare and learning are promoted because relationships with parents are open, friendly and professional. A detailed portfolio with written policies and procedures is available to parents, and information about the care of the children and their achievements is shared each day. This ensures that parental wishes are respected and the individual needs of the children are met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised environment. Indoor and outdoor space is organised effectively to meet the children's needs. Children are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning, as well as receiving a good level of adult support. Their welfare, care and learning is promoted by a good range of well-organised records, policies and procedures. Records are stored securely and confidentiality is maintained. Children's records and achievements are openly shared with parents. The children's care experience is enhanced by the childminder's commitment to developing her practice, by her attendance at training, and her caring and business like approach to childminding. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to practise the emergency escape plan, to maintain a current first aid certificate, and to ensure that the daily attendance register is accurate and up to date. Children now learn what to do in the event of an emergency by regularly practicing the fire escape plan. This ensures that they can evacuate the building safely in the event of a fire. The childminder has attended training and now has up-to-date first aid knowledge, and the register of attendance is accurate and up-to-date. This ensures that children's welfare is safeguarded.

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 by 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):

- continue to develop the implementation of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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