



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY315803 |
| Inspection date | 04 July 2006 |
| Inspector | Margaret Webster |

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| 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 was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and two children aged 12 and nine years in Hednesford, Staffordshire. The whole 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 five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group. The family have two rabbits.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They develop self confidence in their physical skills as they use a range of indoor and outdoor toys and equipment. They are able to listen to their bodies, are able to rest and be active according to their needs.

They learn the importance of personal hygiene through daily routines. They wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. The children are protected from infection because the childminder is informed about children's health care. She has a written policy that excludes children with any infectious illness. This policy helps to prevent cross infection and keeps the children healthy.

The childminder provides all the meals for the children. All the meals have a balance of vegetables, protein and carbohydrates. Drinks are provided throughout the day. Records are kept of dietary requirements. This procedure ensures that the children are receiving enough food to enable them to grow and be healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a environment where the risks have been identified and minimised, for example fire blankets, smoke detectors, a safe and secure outside play area, safety gates and car seats when taken on outings are in place. This means that they are able to move around the property safely, freely and independently. Children can select toys and equipment that are put out on the floor by the childminder and stored in the dining room on child height shelves. The childminder supervises the children's choice of toys and equipment to make sure that they are safe for their age and stage of development.

The childminder is aware of her responsibilities. She has a reasonable understanding of child protection issues. However she is not aware of the of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures. This compromises the children's safety and well-being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a satisfactory selection of toys and activities for the children's ages and stages of development. They participate in art and craft activities such as painting and collage. The childminder interacts with the children in their daily

routines and play. Children are developing independence and self-esteem by selecting their activities, helping with household chores and taking responsibility for tidying away toys. The younger children's skills are extended by attending the local toddler groups. This social activity helps them to become confident communicators. All the children enjoy outings to places of interest in the local community such as the park and the library. Parents receive written and verbal information about the provision, the children's progress and their achievements each day. This practice enables the childminder and the parents to work together to provide a suitable and happy environment for the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued as individuals and they are all treated with equal concern. There is a reasonable range of toys and equipment that reflect diversity and disability. However the childminder has a limited knowledge of festivals from other cultures and religions. This prevents the children from learning about the wider world and different festivals.

Although there are no children currently attending the setting who have learning difficulties or disabilities the childminder is able to provide care which includes them in the life of the setting through discussing their needs with parents and working with any other agencies involved with the care of the child.

The childminder gives support and encouragement to develop the children's understanding of what is right and wrong. They learn mutual respect as they play together, sharing and taking turns. Children build a trusting relationship with the childminder which fosters their sense of belonging. The children present were praised for their good behaviour.

Parents are kept appropriately informed about their children's well-being and development, through daily discussions and a daily diary. The partnership developed ensures that the childminder and parents work together to meet the needs of the children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are settled and at ease within the surroundings. Children are happy in the setting. They are confident to make choices about their own activities and receive support from the childminder to help them feel secure. She has attended the Introduction to Childcare Practice and her first aid certificate is up to date. This ensures that accidents are dealt with correctly.

The childminder does not have written permission to obtain emergency medical treatment from the parents for all of the children in her care. This compromises the children's safety and well-being. Most of the required documentation and procedures

are in place and shared with parents. This enables the parents and the childminder to work together and ensure the children are happy and content.

Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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

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):

- become aware of festivals from different culture and religions.
- become aware of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. (LSCB)
- obtain written permission from the parents for emergency medical treatment.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk