



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY294474
Inspection date	19 July 2006
Inspector	Patricia King
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 2004. She lives with her child aged eight years in the village of Alvaston which is situated in Derbyshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used and there is a fully enclosed area of the garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and currently has four children under eight on roll. She walks to the local school to take and collect children. The childminder has two dogs and has facilities to keep them separate from the minded children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy good health and a healthy lifestyle because they are learning about personal hygiene and self-care. For example, they wash their hands before eating and are reminded that putting their hands in front of their mouths when coughing or sneezing prevents the spread of germs. They are well protected from health risks because the childminder has effective systems in place to promote good hygiene and safeguard children from the dangers of exposure to the sun, for example, children have their own washing and sun-screen equipment.

Children are protected from cross-infection and illness by the childminder's good information and policies to inform parents that children will not be minded when infectious. Their health and welfare are promoted by the clear systems and records kept to take appropriate action in the event of an accident and to administer any necessary medication. Children are learning about the importance of eating fruit and vegetables daily to be healthy and grow strong. Their daily individual dietary needs, personal choice and preferences are established with parents and the childminder works in close partnership to provide a balanced nutritious diet.

Children have daily outside play in the garden, weather permitting. They use outdoor equipment to balance and climb, ride on bikes and cars, and play with balls and games. They are taken to the local parks and preschool groups to play on other large physical equipment. They relax and sleep according to their needs because the childminder plans her home and routines to offer opportunities for rest and quieter times.

Children under three benefit from the childminder's practice in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework to offer positive opportunities for children to learn how to become healthy individuals, for example by talking about healthy eating and personal hygiene.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure, stimulating, comfortable home where risks are recognised and made safe. This means that children move around safely, freely and confidently making good use of the areas used for childminding. They independently select activities from a broad range of quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards and are stored within easy reach. Appropriate safety equipment minimises potential hazards within the home and effective organisation of equipment and resources allows children to access these freely and safely to promote independence and choice.

Children are learning how to keep themselves safe, for example, they respond well to simple rules about not running and climbing in the home. They are learning to keep small pieces and toys out of the reach of babies and young children who may put these into their mouths. Appropriate fire safety equipment is available and children are learning how to escape to safety in the event of an emergency. They are learning to keep safe outside the home by practising stop, look and listen to cross roads with safety.

Children's safety and welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's secure understanding of child protection issues in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Children are kept safe when travelling as the childminder has established good systems to use appropriate safety equipment. The childminder ensures that children are only collected by their parents or named adults by prior written arrangements and children are never left alone with other adults.

Children under three benefit from the childminder's practice in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework to offer positive opportunities for children to learn how to keep safe in daily activities and routines, such as when out walking.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

A substantial range of toys and play resources are readily accessible to children. Careful planning provides them with interesting opportunities to make active choices about their play and promote their learning. Children use their imagination well, for example, they enjoy role play with the home corner equipment. Younger children confidently enlist the childminder's help to act out familiar routines such as dressing and bathing their dolls.

Children proudly show what they have made out of the excellent range of creative materials provided, for example, models, collages, puppets and paintings. Their work is displayed in the childminder's home and is put into scrap books which are shared with their parents. This means that children feel valued and have positive self-esteem.

Children are very settled and comfortable in the childminder's care. She takes care to find out what they can do, their likes and dislikes, and plans effectively to ensure that they learn and develop well in her care. Children respond eagerly to effective questions from the childminder, for example, using daily routines and activities to count, recognise colours and shapes, which promotes the children's learning through play.

Children under three benefit significantly from the childminder's informed and creative use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to offer interesting and stimulating learning opportunities appropriate for their care and development. Children flourish in the caring, stimulating environment where they are highly valued as individuals and they respond positively to the childminder's consistent use of praise and encouragement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's care and welfare is thoroughly discussed and agreed with the parents, establishing a close working partnership to keep them fully informed and included in the care of their children. For example, she has daily discussions with parents about the care of their children and completes a record of the children's daily routines such as food and drink intake by request. This means that the children's individual needs are carefully considered, ensuring that they feel comfortable and confident with the childminder. She shows good understanding of how to manage the situation positively when recognising any health or special needs of a minded child.

Children are learning to behave well, for example, the childminder has established sensible house rules, such as no climbing or jumping on the furniture, which means they learn to take responsibility for their own behaviour. Children listen intently to the childminder and respond positively to her consistent use of praise and encouragement, which promotes a sharing and caring environment.

Children are learning about the community in which they live, for example they enjoy regular outings into the local community and have visited the fire station and local places of interest. However, they have limited opportunities to learn about the wider world with regard to different lifestyles and cultures.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel secure and settled in the childminder's home. This means they have confidence to make choices, express their needs and make good progress in their overall development. Arrangements successfully promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. Space and resources are organised imaginatively and stimulating activities provide children with interesting and exciting opportunities to broaden their overall development. Children's welfare and safety is positively promoted by the comprehensive set of policies, guidelines and information accessible to parents. The childminder ensures that most documents and records necessary for the efficient and safe management of the provision are maintained.

All adults in the household have been cleared and the children are well protected from visitors by the childminder's secure systems and procedures. Parents are kept informed and included in the care of their children by daily discussion which means they can contribute to their child's continued development. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

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 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):

- ensure that the daily record of attendance is accurate and up to date
- develop ways and extend activities to offer children positive opportunities to learn about the wider world with regard to different cultures and lifestyles.

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