



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	959719
Inspection date	11 August 2006
Inspector	Janet Ann Keeling
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 1999. He works in partnership with his wife as a co-childminder. They live with their three children, aged ten, eight and six years. They live in a house in the village of Earl Shilton in Leicestershire. The whole of the ground floor together with the upstairs rear bedroom are used for childminding. The family has a pet rabbit. There is an enclosed garden at the rear of the property that is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children under the age of eight years whilst working alone and nine children whilst working with a co-childminder. Currently there are four children on roll, however, there were no children present during the inspection.

The childminder provides a before and after school service for children attending local schools and has experience of working with children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and child-friendly environment. There are effective procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection. For example, the childminder has systems in place to

ensure children learn about the importance of hand washing during daily routines such as, before meals and after toileting. There are suitable arrangements in place to ensure children are cared for appropriately should they be taken ill.

The childminder is trained in administering first aid and has written permission in place to seek emergency medical treatment. Through discussion, the childminder demonstrated his understanding of the procedures for recording of accidents and for the administration of medication. However, at present confidentiality is not respected when completing accident forms and written consent from parents is not obtained for each course of medication.

From discussion, the childminder demonstrated how children are well nourished and how any special dietary requirements are taken into account. The children are offered regular drinks and food which include lunch, tea and snacks. Parents' wishes are respected and followed to ensure the children's individual needs are being met. Children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills through regular access to outdoor play equipment, for example, as they visit the local park where they have access to swings, a slide and climbing equipment. Children enjoy the fresh air and explore their local environment as they take regular walks with the childminder to school each day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The environment is welcoming and space is organised so children can play safely. Children have access to the necessary facilities to ensure that they are able to eat and sleep comfortably. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure that they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. The toys and equipment are checked on a regular basis, they are rotated and several are placed at low level height to enable the children to access them independently.

Children are cared for in a generally safe environment as suitable safety precautions are in place for example, smoke detectors, cupboard locks and socket covers. However, children's safety is potentially compromised as the front door is not always secured and the garden is currently not safe and free from hazards.

The childminder regularly discusses fire safety with the children who are beginning to understand how to keep themselves safe in the event of a fire. They regularly practise emergency procedures to ensure they know where to go to stay safe.

The childminder has a good understanding of his role and responsibilities whilst protecting children in his care, he is fully aware of the child protection procedures and knows who to contact should he be concerned. The childminder has recently attended child protection training through his role as a cub leader.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Through discussion with the childminder he demonstrated a good understanding of how children learn through play and the importance of providing both child-initiated and adult-led opportunities. Displays of children's work and photographs reflect that the children are involved in a broad range of activities such as cooking, role play, construction and art and craft activities.

Children have access to a good range of toys and resources to help them make progress in their development and have fun. They have regular opportunities to participate in more energetic play when accessing the garden and visiting the local park. Play resources are organised in a manner which helps to promote children's free choice. Toys are rotated regularly to ensure children's learning and fun is maximised.

Children are given many opportunities to socialise with other children as they meet regularly with other childminders, take part in outings and attend local toddler groups. The childminder stated that children have daily access to the outdoor play area where they enjoy a range of physical activities, such as dodgeball and football. Children also have fun whilst visiting the water park and whilst playing on the climbing frame, the slide and swings at the local park.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Through discussion the childminder demonstrated how children's needs are appropriately supported. For example, the children follow their normal daily routine as discussed and agreed with parents. This helps ensure children are settled and secure. Children are valued as individuals and are treated with equal concern. The children have access to a range of toys that provide positive images of the wider world and that help them to increase their awareness of diversity. Photographs and children's work reflect that children are involved in celebrating a range of cultural festivals throughout the year such as, Chinese new year and Diwali.

The childminder showed a sound knowledge of behaviour management, giving good examples of how he would approach a variety of situations for children of different ages. Behaviour strategies are fair, consistent and appropriate to the children's level of understanding, which ensure that the children learn to distinguish right from wrong from an early age.

Through discussion with the childminder he was able to demonstrate how he promotes effective partnerships with parents and stated that relationships are encouraged by being open, trusting and friendly. He clearly demonstrated through discussion and documentation how parents' wishes are respected and stated that daily discussions ensure children benefit from a two way sharing of information. However, whilst parents are made aware of the complaints policy the

childminder has not updated and implemented the procedures in line with the revised National Standards Guidance of October 2005.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The environment is organised to ensure children feel at home. The childminder states that he plans the day around the children's needs, allowing time for play, sleep, meals and school runs. He makes effective use of his home and facilities within the local community. The childminder works effectively with his wife who is also a registered childminder at this setting.

Most of the documentation which contributes to the children's health, well-being and safety is in place, however, written consent from parents to take photographs of children is not in place. Through discussion with the childminder he was able to demonstrate his understanding of the need to regularly review and update documentation to ensure the needs of both the child and parent are being met. Documentation is stored securely and confidentiality is respected.

There were no children present during the inspection, however, evidence suggests that the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to; ensure the contents of the first aid box are checked frequently and replaced as necessary and to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

Since the last inspection the childminder ensures that the first aid box is checked regularly and that any items used are replaced immediately, also, written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is now obtained from parents. Consequently children's health, safety and well-being are further supported by the childminder.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been two complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

A concern was raised with Ofsted that the childminder did not create an environment that encouraged good behaviour. This relates to National Standard 1 Suitable person and National Standard 11 Behaviour. Ofsted conducted an announced visit and found no evidence to suggest a breach of the National Standards. No further action was required and the provider remains qualified for registration.

A complaint was received on 30/06/2006 about un-vetted person being used to collect children and smoking during this time. This relates to National Standard 1 Suitability, National Standard 7 Health, National Standard 12 Working in partnership with parents and National Standard 14 Documentation . It was investigated by an unannounced visit. There were breaches of National Standards identified. Action was given for National Standard 1 Suitability, establish systems to ensure that Ofsted is notified of any person having unsupervised contact with minded children or acting as an assistant looking after children so that appropriate clearances can be

undertaken. Recommendations were set for National Standard 7 Health, National Standard 12 Working in partnership with parents and National Standard 14 Documentation. The registered person continues to be qualified for registration.

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):

- make sure that written permission from parents is obtained before the administration of each course of medication and ensure that confidentiality is respected when completing accident forms
- make sure that the garden is safe, secure and free from hazards
- make sure that children are unable to leave the house unaccompanied
- review and update the complaints procedures to ensure they are written and implemented in line with the revised National Standards Guidance of October 2005
- make sure that written consent is obtained from parents to take photographs of children.

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