



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	201535
Inspection date	25 July 2006
Inspector	Carol Johnson
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 1998. She lives with her husband and three children aged 18, 17 and eight in Rugby. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding purposes, together with a bathroom on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five. The family has a rabbit.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is protected because the childminder takes satisfactory steps to prevent the spread of infection. Children are cared for in a clean and healthy environment and they are encouraged to protect their own health by following good hygiene practices. The childminder ensures that all children wash hands before touching food and after visiting the toilet or touching the family rabbit. Older children are starting to take responsibility for their own personal care and are confident to express their needs. Children's best interests are served should they become ill or have an accident as the childminder maintains well-stocked first aid supplies and ensures that parents are clear with regards to her verbally exchanged sickness policy.

Children's dietary needs are met because they are provided with a range of healthy meals and snacks. For example, they can choose from carrot sticks, chunks of cucumber and a variety of sandwiches. Children's allergies and dietary requirements are considered appropriately as the childminder talks to parents about individual needs and she records and respects individual requirements. Children are not at risk of dehydration as the childminder provides regular drinks and she is aware of the need to offer them more frequently in the event of hot weather or if children are unwell.

Children have access to lots of activities that contribute to their overall physical development. The childminder does not drive and children enjoy plenty of fresh air as they go for walks out and about in the local environment. They visit parks, where there is plenty of space to run around and play ball games, local soft play centres and community groups. Within the childminder's garden children have access to a variety of equipment including a small slide and climbing frame and a selection of wheeled toys. Indoors, children dance, play musical instruments and join in with action songs. They also take part in activities that help to develop their fine muscles and hand to eye co-ordination. For example, they play with construction toys, jigsaw puzzles and draw and paint. Consequently, they are given plenty of opportunities to be active and develop their physical skills.

Children are able to eat, rest and sleep according to their needs because the childminder talks to their parents about home routines. Their day is flexibly organised to try and meet those requirements and to fit in with school runs. Consequently, children are generally able to predict what is likely to happen throughout the day and they receive consistency of care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe because the childminder has suitably assessed and minimised the potential risks to the children in her care. She visually checks her home and appropriate safety and security precautions are in place. For example, any unused electric plug sockets are covered and safety catches are fitted to low-level cupboards and drawers in the kitchen. Children's risk of injury from toys is minimised because the childminder ensures that they are of good quality and appropriate for the range of children that she minds. Children are able to make safe and

independent choices from a variety of resources that are selected for them by the childminder. Additional resources are stored in various places throughout the childminder's home and children know what is available. They are confident to ask for things that they wish to play with that they cannot see.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe by following rules and safe practices. Road safety is discussed and practised whilst out and about in the local environment and house rules are clearly explained to prevent accidents within the home. Children are reminded not to climb on furniture in case they should fall and hurt themselves or others and they know that they must take care when crossing the step leading from the house into the garden. The childminder has devised clear evacuation procedures and she regularly practises these with the children. Consequently, they are starting to develop an understanding of what they would do in the event of a real emergency situation.

Children's welfare is suitably safeguarded as the childminder has a working knowledge of the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. She is aware of local child protection referral procedures and knows that her first priority is to protect the welfare of the children in her care. Children are only released into the care of known individuals and they are not left unsupervised with persons who have not been suitably vetted, for example, visitors or workmen.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are given access to a wide variety of activities that help them to develop in all areas of learning. For example, they enjoy craft activities, playing on the computer, going for walks in the park and building with construction toys. The childminder informally plans for children's play and chosen activities are adjusted to suit the interests and varying ages and abilities of the children who attend. Children receive plenty of support and encouragement. Children are developing their social skills through regularly mixing with other adults and children. They visit friends and other childminders and they go to the library, where they listen to stories and borrow books. This gives children the opportunity to socialise with others and they are learning to listen and share in group situations.

Children can choose from a good range of resources, for example, construction toys, dolls, puzzles, books and role play items. Toys are safely stored where they can be accessed with ease and children are confident to help themselves. Consequently, they are developing some independence and are starting to use their own initiative. The childminder also borrows resources from local toy loan schemes and these are used to extend children's learning by offering them some variety in their play.

Children have good relationships with the childminder, her family and their peers and they are settled and confident. Older children play alongside the younger ones and join in with their play. They help to introduce colours, numbers and language in a fun and non-threatening manner. Children are appropriately nurtured because the childminder responds to and anticipates their needs, for example, she recognises when they are tired or hungry. She helps them to develop their independence and confidence through offering choices and giving them time to

practise such skills as using cutlery, doing up shoes, putting on coats and attending to personal care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and treated as individuals. Their needs are acknowledged because the childminder takes time to listen to them and she provides care and activities that help to increase their sense of security and belonging. Children have their own coat peg, identified by a photograph and the childminder talks to parents to find out about individual comfort items and home routines. Children have access to a satisfactory range of resources which help them to appreciate the wider world and she encourages children to make independent choices about their play. The childminder has no experience of caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities but she displays a positive attitude towards doing so if asked. She is aware of local support mechanisms and would seek additional support and advice if necessary. Also, she is well aware of children's developmental stages and would not hesitate to approach existing parents should she have any concerns about children's progress.

Children are learning about what is acceptable behaviour because the childminder role models good manners and clearly explains rules and boundaries. Children are encouraged to share and take turns in their play. Behaviour management strategies are discussed and agreed with parents to ensure consistency and children's good behaviour and effort is rewarded with plenty of praise and encouragement. However, the childminder has not had any recent training in this area and agrees that an increased knowledge of a wider range of positive behaviour management methods would be beneficial to children's welfare.

Children's welfare is enhanced because the childminder maintains regular communication with their parents. They chat on a daily basis and exchange information about individual children's care, behaviour and routines. Parent's wishes are noted and respected. The childminder has put together a folder of useful information that she shares with parents during their initial visit and this includes copies of forms, training certificates and insurance documents. Consequently, children receive consistency because parents are kept informed and parents receive some guidance as to the service and care they and their child can expect.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and caring home environment. Space and resources are appropriately organised to meet their needs and daily routines are flexibly planned around their individual requirements. Children's welfare is positively supported because the childminder offers a good level of support and attention.

The childminder meets Ofsted training requirements and provides a flexible service to meet the needs of families. She has contingency arrangements in place in case of emergency and sickness. Should an emergency situation arise parents will be phoned and cover arranged with another adult known to both them and their children. Therefore, children would benefit from

being cared for by a familiar adult and parents are clearly informed of arrangements. Required documentation to ensure the safe and effective management of her provision is in place and appropriately maintained. Confidentiality for children and their families is respected. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to a number of recommendations: to complete a recognised first aid course; to continue to develop resources which show positive images of culture, gender and disability; to practise the emergency fire escape plan; and to review and update information in the parent's contracts.

The childminder has a current first aid certificate, additional resources have been purchased in order to reflect and promote diversity, fire drills are regularly practised and contracts have been updated and reviewed. Parents are told that medication will not be administered without prior written permission. Consequently, satisfactory improvements have been made to ensure children's safety and welfare.

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):

- extend knowledge of a range of positive behaviour management methods.

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