



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY294938
Inspection date	06 June 2005
Inspector	Elizabeth Culley

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 partner and 2 children aged 6 and 1 year in Northampton. All of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and is currently minding 2 children under 5 and 2 school age children. The childminder collects children from the local school and has the use of a car.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children receive good care in a well maintained, clean and tidy environment where their health and well-being is nurtured. Their daily routines provide excellent opportunities for children to learn about good hygiene practices and they are beginning to understand why they must wash their hands. Fresh air, rest and regular exercise encourages children's growth and development and they have good opportunities to play both in and out of doors. Meal times are regarded as social occasions where children sit together at the table. Their diets are carefully planned and discussed with parents to ensure they are well nourished and their individual needs met. Children participate in the preparation of food and snacks which encourages them to learn about different foods and discuss healthy eating. They are able to help themselves to drinks. Babies and younger children usually bring their own bottles and food which are carefully stored in a refrigerator.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have excellent opportunities to play, rest and learn in a child friendly, welcoming and secure home. They have free access to a range of interesting, easily accessible resources to promote all areas of their development. Children's safety is promoted through good supervision and the effective use of safety equipment to protect them from potential hazards. Their daily routines promote safety and enable children to develop an understanding of why simple house rules are in place for example they frequently practice fire drills and road safety. Children's welfare is highly regarded and the childminder seeks to use her good knowledge of child protection procedures to keep them safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's sound knowledge of child development and they have opportunities to progress in all areas of learning. Young children and babies enjoy warm, caring relationships with their childminder and their self-esteem is promoted. They are developing listening and communication skills during play, for example when the childminder talks to them, supports them in their activities and frequently praises them. They respond by being happy, contented, smiling and laughing. Children's social development is enhanced by visits to places of interest, toddler groups and sharing activities. Older children choose their own activities from the well organised and interesting variety of resources provided therefore promoting their independence. They form their own social groups and frequently create imaginative games such as treasure hunts in the garden. Children participate in daily routines and activities which encourage decision making for example they set the

table and tidy toys away. They enjoy an interesting range of creative experiences and are enabled to develop their imagination through gardening, cooking and craft activities. Children have opportunities to explore different cultures through reading books and visiting the library.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed to the childminders home and play an active part in the daily programme of activities. Their individual needs and established daily routines are valued and children settle well. Younger children are well supported, frequently praised and encouraged to achieve small tasks therefore developing a sense of self-worth. They respond enthusiastically with smiles and laughter and they behave well. Children are encouraged to talk about feelings and the importance of respecting others. They are able to learn about other cultures through the varied and interesting resources provided however opportunities to explore disability are limited. Good relationships are fostered between children as they learn to share and play together in harmony. They are encouraged to observe simple house rules and are rewarded for good behaviour. The partnership between parents and childminder works well and children are happy and contented. Established routines and planned induction encourages children to settle quickly and develop confidence.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare is promoted by the childminder who is cleared and has attended all relevant training for registration. Good supporting procedures, documentation and records support children's welfare. Well written diaries are shared daily and keep parents well informed of their children's progress, therefore promoting an effective partnership. Adult: child ratios are always met to ensure children are well cared for and their well-being is promoted. The effective organisation of space and resources promotes good care for children and they are happy. Overall the needs of all children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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 children have access to a variety of resources to encourage them to learn about disability.

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