



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY295992
Inspection date 01 June 2005
Inspector Sally Elizabeth Lee

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 2004. She lives in a terraced house very close to Rugby town centre. She uses the whole of the house for childminding, excluding the main bedroom. There is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time and is currently caring for three children. She takes the children to toddler groups and takes and collects from school.

The childminder has three pet cats. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an appropriately clean and healthy environment where they learn about the importance of washing hands before meals. They are provided with a good role model by the childminder. Liquid soap and individual towels are provided for the children and surfaces are cleaned before use. Hygiene procedures are satisfactory with regard to nappy changing. Children are nourished by the home cooked meals provided by the childminder but occasionally the reliance on convenience foods does not ensure children benefit from and learn about the importance of a healthy diet. Drinks are provided throughout the day. Children have regular opportunities to enjoy physical activity in the garden and on visits to the soft play area at the local sports centre and gym club. Children are protected from infection by the clear policy which is given to parents before their children start. The procedure in place to record accidents and medication is sound. The childminder is first aid trained and ensures the first aid box is maintained appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are looked after in a generally safe environment where the childminder is largely able to identify and minimise risks. However, young children sometimes are allowed to play in the garden while the childminder remains in the house. Children are generally able to move around the setting safely and the premises are clean, well maintained and secure. They are protected by the safety policy which includes an emergency action plan and by the evacuation procedure which is written but not practised. Good quality toys and equipment are provided which conform to safety standards and are checked and cleaned regularly. The environment is made welcoming to children by the accessible resources and displays of children's art work. Children learn good safety procedures outside the home, for example, the correct road crossing drill and the childminder is careful about safety in the car. Children are further protected by the childminder's sound knowledge of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy in the childminding environment. They relate well to the childminder and to the other children and interaction between them is good. They approach the childminder confidently for re-assurance and support. The childminder talks to and plays with the children, asking them questions to develop their learning and giving them choices to enhance their self esteem. Children benefit from the clear structure and routine at the childminder's home. They have regular opportunities to socialise with other children and to benefit from experiences outside the home. For

example, the childminder takes the children to toddler group and to soft play at the sports centre. In addition she provides a wide range of interesting activities at home which the children enjoy and which help them to develop in all areas of their learning. Children's individual routines and care needs are respected by the childminder. She discusses children's individual needs, as well as their likes and dislikes, with parents before children start to ensure their needs are well met. She performs care tasks sensitively.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn to respect and care for each other from the childminder's good example. They learn to share, to take turns and to be kind. They benefit from the childminder's consistent management of behaviour which is discussed with parents before they start. Self esteem is raised by good use of praise and by offering choice. Children are encouraged to take part in daily routine tasks, for example setting the table for lunch. They benefit from being cared for as individuals, with their daily routines being respected wherever possible. The daily verbal feedback to parents about their children's care and achievements aids continuity of care and helps children to feel secure and settled. However, the range of resources which help children to learn about the diverse world in which we live is limited.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's good organisation of space, time and resources. The well organised home ensures children have opportunities for all types of play and have space for quiet activities, rest, meals and play. The garden is particularly well organised to encourage children to participate in a number of interesting activities for example, a gate has been painted with blackboard paint and large chinks are stored nearby. The childminder plans and organises the time well to take account of children's individual routines. The majority of the documentation is maintained to ensure children and parents benefit from an efficiently run childminding business but the daily attendance register lacks accurate information. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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):

- increase the resources which help children to learn about the diverse society in which we live
- ensure attendance register records times of arrival and departure
- provide a wider selection of healthy meals and snacks to ensure children receive a balanced, nutritious diet
- ensure children are under the direct supervision of the childminder at all times.

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