



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY337783
Inspection date	06 November 2006
Inspector	Paula Hunt
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 2006. She lives with her two children aged seven and eight years in a house in Leicestershire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house, along with the second and third bedroom on the first floor, is used for childminding. There is a secure garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. She has an early years qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family has a pet cat, a degus and some tropical fish.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder having efficient hygiene routines, which help to prevent the spread of infection. Her home is clean and tidy and she ensures work surfaces and children's equipment are cleaned regularly. Children are taught the importance of regular hand washing through daily routine. The childminder has an understanding of healthy eating and drinks are readily available throughout the day.

The day is planned to allow children to take part in active and quiet times. Children rest and sleep according to their needs and take part in activities to support their physical development. They go on trips outside the home on a regular basis, for example to the local park, where children can run and climb.

Children are excluded from the setting with infectious illnesses to ensure the health of all the children is maintained. The childminder provides appropriate first aid equipment in the home and holds a valid first aid certificate to ensure children's welfare in an emergency. However, written parental consent has not been obtained for the childminder to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into a clean and well maintained home and are able to independently select activities from a variety of toys and equipment that are safe and in a good condition. They have access to resources that are appropriate to their ages and abilities and play in a comfortable environment helping them feel confident about what they are able to do.

Children are cared for in an environment where most risks are minimised. For example, safety gates to prevent children's unsupervised access to the kitchen and stairs. However, children's safety is compromised as there are some dangerous items in the garden. Children are able to experience travelling safely in a vehicle as the childminder provides appropriate car seats and insurance cover for the vehicle is in place. Sensitive reminders, such as a request to pick up toys from the floor to prevent someone tripping over, increase children's awareness of everyday safety in the home.

Children's protection from abuse and neglect is promoted well through the childminder's good knowledge of child protection issues. She has a good understanding of her role and responsibility and knows what action to take if there were concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's individual stages of development and learning are well provided for as the childminder is aware of each child's needs and plans the day accordingly. Children frequently attend local

community groups which gives them opportunities to socialise in a safe and supportive environment. Children experience a pleasing variety of meaningful play activities both indoors and outside. For example, messy play such as dough, imaginative play, construction, sit and ride toys, climbing equipment, books and puzzles. Young children are learning to recognise colours and extend language. They are confident and are developing independence whilst selecting activities and using the toilet. Their confidence is inspired by the effective use of praise and encouragement.

Children receive individual attention and the interaction between the childminder and all of the children is good. Their care needs are met with cuddles and lap time for comfort as appropriate, for example when they become tired. They benefit from active play and rest or sleep to meet their individual needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated as individuals helping them to develop a sense of worth and value others. They attend groups with the childminder where they learn about other cultures and take part in festival celebrations. They choose from a good range of toys, which help children develop a positive view of differences and they choose books during trips to the local library.

Children are happy and well behaved. They respond positively to praise that shows them that their behaviour is acceptable. Children are learning right from wrong because they are given clear explanations when the childminder asks them to change their behaviour. Children benefit from the childminder's calm, polite approach and are able to model their behaviour her positive example. Methods of behaviour management are agreed with parents to ensure consistency with home but the childminder does not have procedures in place to share details of incidents should it become necessary to do so.

Children benefit from the childminder knowing them well and responding to their personal needs and interests. This is achieved through a good partnership with parents which starts with an initial visit. The use of several written policies and procedures advise parents of the care that is provided and a daily exchange of information ensures all remain well informed to meet the children's needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home within the well organised environment which contributes to their sense of belonging. They have good adult support to help them feel confident and secure within the childminder's home. Children benefit from the efficient way the childminder organises space to maximise play opportunities. They have access to a comprehensive range of interesting activities in the home and the local community that promote their development effectively.

Children's safety and welfare is maintained by the childminder having a clear understanding of the National Standards and her responsibilities to the children and their parents. Since registration, she has completed the required training and is keen to consider new ideas to

further develop the service she provides. Clear and well organised records are kept up to date so that she may take any relevant action to meet the children's needs.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there has been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- ensure written consent is gained to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure children can play safely outside and are protected from hazards
- ensure incidents are recorded and the parent informed of the incident on the day

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