



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY339882
Inspection date	18 January 2007
Inspector	Michelle Tuck

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 lives with her husband and three children aged seven, four and two years, in a four bed-roomed semi-detached house, situated in the village of Martock. Minded children have use of all rooms apart from the upstairs bathroom and master bedroom. There is an enclosed garden at the back of the house. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children aged under eight years at any one time. There are currently eight children on roll.

The childminder has one dog who can be kept in his own separate area when necessary.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted as the childminder's home is clean and well maintained. The childminder has appropriate hygiene procedures in place which enables children to be cared for in an environment that reduces the risk of infection. Children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly especially after using the toilet or before meal times, and are provided with individual flannels to dry their hands on, all of which helps to prevent the spread of infection.

Children's food is currently provided by the childminder. Details of children's individual dietary needs are recorded and catered for appropriately. Healthy eating is well promoted. A menu is available providing a balanced diet of nutritious meals. Drinking water is readily available and children drink from cups with their names on to prevent confusion.

Children enjoy fresh air and exercise as they have many opportunities to use equipment in the garden. There are regular outdoor activities such as walks and visits to local parks this helps to develop children's physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment. Suitable and sufficient equipment is readily available to meet the children's care needs effectively, for example, small tables and chairs.

Children are able to move around with ease and they explore independently as the childminder carries out a visual risk assessment before they arrive, inside and outside. The childminder has taken suitable steps to make her home safe and secure, for example, a safety gate is in place to prevent children accessing the kitchen unsupervised. However the fire blanket has not been wall mounted and therefore children are not fully protected. Children learn how to keep themselves safe when they go out as the childminder talks to them about crossing the road safely and staying within her sight. Emergency evacuation of the property in the event of a fire has not been discussed with the children, or practised and therefore their safety in an emergency situation is compromised.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has an understanding of child protection issues and is clear about her role and responsibilities to protect them from harm

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have close relationships with the childminder and they seek comfort and support during their play. They happily explore their surroundings as they play with a range of appropriate toys and resources.

A relaxed and informal routine is provided, based around the children's needs. The childminder is able to adapt routines and introduce a range of different activities as necessary to support the children in her care. For example, minded children attend for a couple of hours a week and the childminder has recognised the importance of enabling them to make their own choices after a busy morning at preschool. She supports their learning by providing and encouraging children to play games, complete puzzles and have access to creative activities, such as cutting and sticking, drawing, and baking activities. The childminder has a good awareness of child development and children's likes and dislikes. She is able to use this knowledge to produce a balance of interesting activities to support their all-round development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder meets the needs of the children by seeking information from the parents about the child's likes and dislikes and through getting to know the child. The childminder does not have any experience of caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities however she treats all children as individuals, and aims to meet their differing needs appropriately.

Children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others is limited, as there are few resources which reflect positive images of diversity. However all children have equal access to all toys and activities.

Children's behaviour is managed appropriately and according to their ages and stage of development. Children are provided with consistent messages about expectations for good behaviour. There are clear boundaries that are clearly explained and reinforced to enable children to be safe and get along with others. They are encouraged to be polite, share, take turns and consider the needs of those around them. The childminder is a positive role model, who responds calmly and consistently to the children's demands.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed in the childminder's welcoming home. Children are able to access suitable toys and are able to move safely and freely around the room. The organisation of space, toys and equipment enables children to play, rest and eat comfortably. Children are happy and content.

Children benefit from appropriate routines that support their individual needs and they have sufficient adult support to enable them to feel secure.

Children's welfare, care and learning is promoted adequately through the partnership with parents and carers. Records are adequate to support and safeguard children's welfare. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have 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 the fire blanket is wall mounted appropriately
- discuss and practice the emergency evacuation procedure with the children
- increase opportunities for children to access resources which reflect positive images of diversity.

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