

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	226707
Inspection date	25 May 2007
Inspector	Patricia King
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 1992. She lives with her husband, child aged 10 years and two adult children in the city of Leicester. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used and there is a fully enclosed back yard for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and currently has two children under eight on roll. She takes children to local pre-school groups and on outings into the local community.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted by the childminder's appropriate systems and practice to maintain a suitable standard of hygiene and care in her home. A healthy environment is provided where consistent hygiene procedures prevent the spread of infection, for example, children have their own washing and sun screen equipment. Children are learning why they wash their hands before eating, after using the toilet, or playing outdoors. They respond proudly when praised by the

childminder because they have attended to their personal hygiene. Children are protected from cross infection and illness by the childminder's clear information and policies to inform parents that children will not be minded when infectious. Children's health and welfare are promoted by the effective systems and records kept to take appropriate action in the event of an accident and to administer any necessary medication.

Children benefit from daily outings as they are taken to the local parks and pre-school groups to play on large physical equipment. They relax and sleep according to their needs because the childminder plans her home and routines to offer opportunities for rest and quieter times. Most parents provide food for their children and the childminder works closely with parents to ensure that a balanced diet is provided overall. Healthy snacks are available and suitable drinks are within easy reach to promote independence and choice.

The childminder describes her practice with younger children to offer positive opportunities for children to learn how to become healthy individuals, for example, by talking about healthy eating and personal hygiene.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure, comfortable home where most risks are recognised and made safe. This means that children move around freely and confidently making good use of the areas used for childminding. However, low-level glass in the internal door has not been maintained safely which means that children are not fully protected from hazards in the home. A broad range of toys and activities which meet safety standards is stored within easy reach allowing children to access these freely to promote independence and choice.

Children are learning how to keep themselves safe, for example, they respond well to simple rules about not running and climbing in the home and are actively involved in emergency escape practices. They are learning to keep safe outside the home by practising 'stop, look and listen' to cross roads with safety and eagerly describe how they walk away from the curb safe from the dangers of traffic.

Children's safety and welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's secure understanding of child protection issues in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. The childminder ensures that children are only collected by their parents or named adults by prior written arrangement and children are never left alone with other adults.

Children under three benefit from the childminder's practice to offer positive opportunities for children to learn how to keep safe in daily activities and routines, such as when out walking.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and comfortable in the environment and take part confidently in the routines and activities offered for their care and welfare. The childminder takes care to find out what children can do, their likes and dislikes, and plans effectively to ensure that they learn and develop well in her care. Their learning and personal needs are well met as the childminder recognises each child as an individual and is careful to treat them with respect. This means that children are developing a real sense of belonging and self-esteem.

Children's care and development is effectively promoted by childminder who is beginning to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to inform and support her plans and daily practice. Children use their imagination well, for example, they eagerly chat about the pictures they have drawn and explain that they will take these home to show their family members. Children are keen to show what they have learned and respond eagerly to effective questions from the childminder. For example, the childminder skilfully uses daily routines and activities to count, recognise colours and shapes, which promotes the children's learning through play.

Children are developing positive relationships with each other and others outside the setting. They are learning about their community and the wider world, for example, the childminder takes the children out into the local area to the library, shops, parks and community groups.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's care and welfare is thoroughly discussed and agreed with the parents, establishing a close working partnership to keep them fully informed and included in the care of their children. For example, she has daily discussions with parents about the care of their children completes a record of the children's daily routines such as food and drink intake by request. This means that the children's individual needs are carefully considered, ensuring that they feel comfortable and confident with the childminder. She shows good understanding of how to manage the situation positively when recognising any health, learning difficulties and/or disabilities of a minded child.

Children are learning about the community in which they live and the wider world through a range of activities and resources. For example, they explore and celebrate diversity and significant events in the lives of others and enjoy regular outings into their local community. Children are learning to behave well, for example, the childminder has established sensible house rules such as no climbing or jumping on the furniture which means they learn to take responsibility for their own behaviour. Children listen intently to the childminder and respond positively to her consistent use of praise and encouragement which promotes a sharing and caring environment.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder ensures that documents and records necessary for the efficient and safe management of the provision are maintained. She has demonstrated her commitment to continued improvement by attending appropriate training opportunities. For example, children's safety and welfare is promoted because the childminder has appropriate first aid and food hygiene qualifications and has attended child protection training.

The childminder has organised her home to provide a secure, welcoming environment and children are settled in her care. This means they have confidence to make choices, express their needs and make good progress in their overall development. All adults in the household have been cleared and the children are well protected from visitors by the childminder's secure systems and procedures. Parents are kept informed and included in the care of their children by daily discussion which means they can contribute to their child's continued development. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed plan a range of activities and play opportunities to support the developmental needs of children under three and ensure that all children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Younger children take part in a good range of age appropriate activities and the childminder has some understanding of the 'Birth to threes matters' framework. Children are learning about the wider world and diversity by using the broad range of opportunities and resources provided by the childminder. Children's safety has been significantly enhanced because the childminder maintains the first aid box appropriately stocked at all times, parents' written permission has been requested to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and the childminder has clear understanding of child protection issues and procedures.

Partnership with parents has been improved because the childminder has established clear written agreements for the care of their children and business arrangements. The childminder maintains necessary records which are stored securely and within easy access for inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 good. 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):

- take positive steps to promote safety within the setting by ensuring that low level glass is made safe or inaccessible to children.

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