



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	257517
Inspection date	17 January 2007
Inspector	Lynn Morris

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 2001. She lives with her husband and three children aged fifteen, thirteen and nine years in Nuneaton, Warwickshire. The whole ground floor, except the study, of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for five children during the day. The childminder attends several childminding and toddler groups. The family has a cat and a dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They enjoy frequent outdoor activities, for example they visit the local park to use the climbing and sliding equipment and they have space to run around in the fresh air. They attend toddler and childminder groups where they can use toys and equipment to develop their small and gross motor skills. They visit other childminders for social play and use different toys and equipment and they go on regular outings to Coombe Abbey and to feed the ducks. They can access a good range of physical equipment and wheeled toys in the childminder's garden.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn about hygiene routines and personal care. They talk about germs and learn that not washing their hands will make their tummies poorly. They use foam soap pumps for hand washing and wash their hands at appropriate times. For example, they know they need to wash their hands after touching the childminder's pets. Children's nappy changing routines include individual changing mats and the childminder wears disposable gloves, which reduces risks to children from cross-infection. Their health is addressed because the childminder has a current first aid certificate, written illness policy and clear recording procedures for accidents and giving medication.

Children learn about healthy eating. They can see posters displayed of fruit and vegetables. All meals are freshly prepared using organic produce only and a menu is displayed for parents. For example, they have organic fish fingers, fresh vegetables, the childminder uses wholemeal products and keeps to a healthy eating plan. They have a nutritious range of healthy meals prepared by the childminder and their dietary needs are discussed with parents and are addressed by the childminder. Toddlers and babies have food mostly provided by their parents. Children are offered a good range of drinks throughout the day, they choose from squash, milk and water.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home where their safety needs are given priority. Risks to children have been identified and minimised and daily checks ensure that children move around the home safely and freely. For example, procedures are in place to prevent crawling babies from accessing the fire surround or the television, radiators have guards and safety gates are used on the kitchen and stairs. However, there are currently no risk assessments for the family trampoline in the garden. The childminder gives high priority to keeping children safe when they are out of the home. For example, all children have age appropriate car seats and a variety of single, double and triple buggies are used to transport children safely when walking.

Children choose from toys of good quality and the childminder makes daily checks of safety equipment. Children regularly practice fire drills and can see effective written procedures for emergency escape from the premises displayed on the wall. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has all required documentation and many additional written policies

and procedures, which help to keep children safe. For example, documentation for the car ensures children are transported safely and parents permission for outings and to transport children has been sought.

Children are protected from risk of harm by the childminder's secure knowledge of local procedures to safeguard children and she attends training to keep up to date with any current developments. Parents can see a written child protection policy and they sign a child protection statement.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well in the childminder's home. They make good relationships with each other and the childminder. Hugs and cuddles are freely sought and given and they approach the childminder with confidence and delight, for example to show her what they have made or what they are doing. They socialise frequently with other children when they attend regular organised activities and groups outside of the home and during visits to other childminders and children for social play.

Children become independent as they choose from a good range of toys. They choose where to play and select toys and materials, which are within crawling and reaching distance for toddlers and babies and are appropriate to their different levels of development. Children use a range of toys in a learning environment, for example they can see large posters of words and pictures, a poster showing opposites, alphabet pictures and letters, a poster on mini beasts, a poster on fruit and nutrition and a festival calendar. They have an interactive activity to talk about the month, day and weather, which also displays a number line. They have art and craft activities, dressing up, music, basic colours, numbers and letters as part of everyday activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children choose from a good range of resources, which include toys and books to develop positive understanding of different cultures and people with disabilities. Children join in festival celebrations and for example, made diva lamps during Diwali celebrations. They play with dolls, dressing up clothes and books representative of different cultures and abilities. As a result they learn to appreciate and value each others similarities and differences. Currently there are no children with disabilities but the childminder has previous experience and would ensure that she works with parents and other professionals to meet each child's needs.

Children learn to play together and how to respect each others feelings. They learn to share well and picture clues help children with emerging language skills to understand, for example when biting or scratching is unacceptable. Children respond to the childminder's kindness and spontaneously say 'I love you'. They are told when they are being good and unacceptable behaviour is clearly explained to them with effective use of distraction techniques. The childminder is consistent in her management, a good role model and takes account of different levels of children's development.

Children's information is sought and exchanged with parents both written and verbally at the end of each session. Parents of new and settling in children are provided with e-mailed photographs of their child at play during the day to reassure them that their child is coping well. They receive written information about the setting and service and many parents have left glowing testimonials with the childminder about the service.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at ease in a well organised homely environment. They benefit from the childminder's good organisational skills, which promote a learning environment and keep children healthy and safe. They use space available in the childminder's home to enjoy a wide variety of activities. They are happy, settled and confident in the childminder's care. Regular visits outside of the home contributes to children's social and physical skills.

A very good range of written policies and procedures are used to keep children safe and healthy and ensure that parents understand the aims and objectives of the setting. Communication with parents is good and their testimonials demonstrate that they are delighted with the service they receive. They have daily opportunities for discussion and consultation about their child's development and well-being. Regular attendance at training courses to improve skills and knowledge has good impact on the care of the children and overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to make any potential hazards in the garden inaccessible to children. The childminder has removed the previous hazard, which was a hose pipe.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- ensure the family trampoline is not accessible.

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