



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	252184
Inspection date	22 January 2007
Inspector	Beverly Kemp-Russell
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 has been registered since 2000. She lives with her husband in Nottinghamshire, close to local shops and schools. The ground floor and the first floor bathroom of the house are used for childminding purposes. There is a secure rear garden for outside play used by children under supervision.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding seven children aged between 13 months and 9 years whom attend on both full-time and part-time arrangements.

The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a satisfactory range of activities which contribute to children's health. There are planned outdoor activities to help them develop physical skills and develop body control. The garden and the local park are used regularly to ensure children have good opportunities for outside play. The children enjoy going to the local woods to pick blackberries which they then bake into pies.

Children are cared for in a warm home where they learn the importance of generally good hygiene practices and personal care. Children follow sound hygiene routines and their understanding of regular hand washing reduces the risk of cross-contamination. Children's health is promoted by the childminder maintaining most accident and medication records. However, the childminder has not requested written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children's dietary requirements, likes and dislikes are met through the childminder providing healthy drinks, meals and snacks to ensure children are well nourished. She encourages children to make healthy eating choices but also takes their likes and dislikes into consideration and has a policy to support this. She encourages children to help with food preparation and menu planning.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a home where risks are adequately identified and minimised. The childminder ensures children are able to move around safely and freely under supervision. They are able access appropriate resources to meet their needs. The childminder gives sound priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety outside the home particularly in the area of road safety. However, she does not have written parental permission to take children on outings.

The childminder ensures children can independently select from a satisfactory range of toys and play resources, which meet safety standards. Children's safety is promoted by the childminder carrying out regular checks on toys and equipment. The childminder adequately supervises children both indoors and outdoors to ensure their safety at all times. Appropriate safety equipment is provided within the home to ensure the safety of children such as safety gates, nursery type fire guard and smoke alarms.

Children are protected and their welfare safeguarded because the childminder is aware of her child protection responsibilities. She is aware of signs and symptoms of abuse and understands the procedures to follow to ensure children are well protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to select resources which develop their learning such as using programmable toys, jigsaw puzzles and imaginary play. Children can make their own choices and access a range of resources that are age-appropriate and which meet their needs. They experience a sound learning environment through activities provided by the childminder such as painting, cutting and sticking activities. The childminder plans outings to places of interest such as the local pond for children to fish with nets. However, the 'Birth to three matters' framework is not used effectively.

The childminder follows a basic daily routine where children are provided with opportunities to learn through play. Children's skills are developed through the use of satisfactory learning opportunities being promoted during everyday occurrences, for example, weighing and counting during food preparation and baking activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have equal access to play resources and activities and their individual needs are well met. Activities and resources that promote anti-discriminatory practice and inform children about the wider world such as the Indian theme are informative. The childminder is aware of the need to work closely with parents of children with special needs to ensure that appropriate care is offered. The childminder ensures that all children are made welcome and warm relationships developed with children which ensures that they feel a sense of belonging.

Children's behaviour is managed well due to the childminder's consistent approach in promoting positive behaviour. Children show respect for themselves and others, encouraged by the childminder setting a good example. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement, and guidance is applied consistently to ensure they are aware of acceptable boundaries.

The partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. Children's needs are met by daily verbal communication between the childminder and parents. Children are looked after according to parents' wishes and the childminder ensures she is aware of their opinions and attitudes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's needs are met by the way the childminder organises the room layout. Children are able to feel at home and at ease in this environment. Most policies and procedures are comprehensive and promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Parents are kept informed about the service provided by regular verbal communication. However, records are not well-organised or stored securely to ensure confidentiality is maintained. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has made satisfactory improvements by purchasing National Childminding Association documentation such as the register and records the names of the children being looked after and their hours of attendance. She takes adequate steps to promote children's health through the use of sound hygiene routines for example, regular hand washing. She ensures that the required adult:child ratios are maintained at all times and is aware of informing Ofsted of any significant events.

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 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):

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- obtain written parental permission and provide details for parents on any outings
- ensure that the 'Birth to three matters' framework is used effectively
- ensure records are well-organised and stored securely to ensure confidentiality is maintained.

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