



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY272331
Inspection date	01 March 2007
Inspector	Tracey Marie Boland
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 has been registered since 2003. She lives with her family and young child aged seven in Daventry. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and also the first floor bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and regularly meets with other childminders in the area. The family have a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently caring for 16 children all on a part-time basis under the age of 11 years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of physical activities which contribute to their good health. They spend time in the garden using bikes, balls, skipping ropes and a small climbing frame. They learn that being active promotes good health and discuss the changes to their heart beats after they have exercised. They have an awareness of the need to drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration. A jug of fresh drinking water is freely available that they can access independently.

Children's dietary needs are known by the childminder and parents provide a packed lunch which is stored in line with guidance. Fresh fruit and raw vegetables are provided as a snack each day. The childminder follows good food hygiene practices, minimising the risk of stomach upsets.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They understand simple health and hygiene practices and the need to wash their hands at regular times throughout the day, for example, before meals, after messy play and after using the bathroom. Clear nappy changing routines are followed which ensure the comfort of the child is maintained. Children are well protected by the childminder in case of accidents because she has an in date first aid certificate and deals with accidents in a calm manner, assessing the situation and treating the child accordingly. Accident and medication records are kept up to date and signed by parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment and potential risks have been identified and minimised through the use of stair gates, socket covers and the use of a fire guard. Daily visual checks ensure that all areas are safe and suitable for use by the children and they are able to move around the home safely. Children are protected from unauthorised visitors and are unable to leave the premises unaccompanied because of good security indoors and in the garden.

Children are safe because their toys, equipment and furniture are safe, clean and in a good condition. Storage enables children to safely access resources for themselves through low shelves and good organisation. Baby toys are monitored to ensure that they are suitable for their stage of development. Children are protected in the event of a fire because the childminder has a clearly written evacuation procedure and children practise the fire drill, which is recorded and evaluated to ensure their safety is maintained.

They are encouraged to take responsibility for their own safety when outside such as crossing the road safely, holding hands when out and holding onto the rails when they come down the steps at the park. Stranger danger is discussed and children are aware that they have to be in direct supervision of the childminder at all times.

Children's welfare is well protected through the childminder's secure knowledge of safeguarding children from abuse. She understands her role and responsibility in protecting children and accesses training to keep herself informed of legislation and local procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled and good relationships have been formed with the childminder. A wide range of interesting activities are provided which meets the developmental needs of the children, including art and craft activities, puzzles, books, role play and music and movement. Children are developing skills and confidence during physical play activities when using scooters, bikes, cars, bats and balls and skipping ropes and a little tykes climbing frame. Walks are taken in the local area or to the park and children are able to go outside every day.

Children are cared for as individuals and the childminder has a firm understanding of child development and knows their likes and dislikes. They enjoy the individual time spent with the childminder who is responsive to their needs and encourages them in their play. Resources are freely available and good organisation enables children to reach them safely. Children's are developing independence in everyday routines. They enjoy meal times which are a relaxed, social occasion and children chat excitedly about things they have been involved in.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated as individuals and the childminder encourages parents to share information about their individual needs which maintains continuity of care. They become aware of the wider world and learn to appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences through books, puzzles, small world figures and dolls that reflect different cultures. Children have equal access to all resources and equipment however, children do not have the opportunity to access resources that reflect disability or non-stereotypical gender roles. Children's individual needs are discussed with parents in detail. Any special requirements or information is discussed and consistent communication and information exchange takes place. Special needs of children are recognised and met sensitively.

Children are well behaved and the childminder is aware of appropriate methods when dealing with unacceptable behaviour. Children are encouraged to share and be kind to each other and receive praise and encouragement for their achievements. The childminder is a good role model and takes account of different levels of development.

Parents share information about their child's needs, interests and experiences on a daily basis to ensure continuity of care. All documentation and consent is in place to ensure their needs are known and met effectively. Children develop a sense of belonging because they are offered a settling in period and gradual visits. A clear prospectus is shared with parents which outlines the care provided and includes some written policies and procedures that are in place within the home.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a relaxed, homely environment. Verbal and written policies and procedures are effective in promoting the welfare, care and learning of the children and her practice meets their individual needs. Children move safely and confidently within the home available to them and have formed strong relationships with the childminder.

The childminder ensures that all required information and consent has been obtained from parents and daily communication between both parties ensures that their child's individual needs are met effectively. All required information is well maintained and stored securely as the childminder understands the importance of working within the boundaries of confidentiality. She demonstrated a commitment in accessing relevant training to keep her knowledge and skills up to date which will enable her to develop her practice as she continues minding.

Overall the needs of the children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop knowledge of child protection procedures and whom to contact if concerned about a child. The childminder has increased her knowledge in the area of child protection and has attended training in this area. She has a clear understanding of the referral procedures she should follow and all relevant telephone numbers are held. Therefore, children's welfare is protected.

She was also asked to develop the range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Resources have been developed and increased following the last inspection and these are freely available to the children. However, those that reflect non-stereotypical gender roles and disability are still very limited and a recommendation has been made to increase these further.

Finally, the childminder was asked to make sure that the emergency fire escape plan is practiced. A clearly written fire escape plan has been drawn up and the children practise this regularly. A detailed record is maintained and evaluated which enables the childminder to ensure that the procedure is suitable.

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):

- continue to develop the resources that reflect non stereotypical gender roles and disability.

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