

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY316512
Inspection date	16 April 2007
Inspector	Shami Kumar
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 2006. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and two years of age. The family live in house in the area of Rushey mead in Leicester. The whole of the house is used for childminding which consists of the lounge, dining area, kitchen, and the bathroom and bedrooms on the first floor.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight at any one time. She is currently caring for two children under eight. All children attend on a part-time basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She takes children to the local park, shops, school run and other activities outside the home.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder takes satisfactory steps to develop children's understanding and awareness of good health and hygiene. For example, children wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Older children understand that they wash their hands to stay healthy. They

are cared for in clean premises. Children are protected from cross-contamination as the children use kitchen towels to dry their hands and the surfaces are cleaned with anti-bacterial spray.

Children's health is supported because the childminder keeps a first aid box well stocked and has knowledge of first aid. She is therefore able to take appropriate action in case of an emergency. However, children's well-being is affected because there is no written agreement with parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. There are systems in place for the administration of medicines and the recording of accidents and the childminder makes parents aware of the procedure she will follow if their child becomes unwell.

Children keep healthy because they receive a balanced range of foods within their meals. These include pasta, rice and lentils. Drinks are available throughout the day ensuring that they are well hydrated and comfortable. The childminder gains information on any special dietary needs and preferences to ensure that the children have appropriate meals, which are in accordance with parents' wishes.

Children experience the outdoor environment and have opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle through accessing regular exercise and fresh air. They enjoy regular outdoor exercise as they visit local parks and go on walks within the local area. The children benefit from using a range of outdoor play equipment in the park which includes slides, swings, climbing frames, and catch and kick balls which enable them to develop their co-ordination and confidence. Children develop their physical skills as they play indoor musical games such as musical statues.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to move around the home freely and independently. The children are looked after in a generally safe and welcoming family home where the childminder is largely able to identify and minimise risks. For example, low-level glass conforms to safety standards and dangerous substances are inaccessible to children. However, children's safety is not fully protected as electrical sockets are accessible to them. The childminder has smoke detectors and a fire blanket which are appropriately sited, and children are protected in the event of a fire because the childminder has practised an emergency escape plan.

Children are able to access and select from a range of toys, books and equipment appropriate to the ages of children attending. These are organised and are stored in boxes allowing the children to choose independently. The childminder makes sure that children use suitable equipment by making regular checks to ensure they are safe to use. The children are comfortable in the setting, with space used appropriately for their needs.

Children are kept safe when out of the home, as the childminder helps children to develop knowledge and take responsibility for keeping safe whilst walking with the children. For example, younger children are strapped in a buggy and she encourages children walking to hold onto the buggy. The children learn about safe road side practices as the childminder talks to them about where to cross safely. Children are appropriately restrained with seat belts and booster seats when travelling by car and the childminder has the necessary documentation in place in relation to outings.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has sound knowledge of child protection issues and procedures to follow should she have a concern about a child and she obtains appropriate information such as emergency contact numbers and details of each child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and secure in the childminder's care. They are relaxed and settled and they relate well to the childminder. She involves herself and interacts appropriately to support their learning. They are occupied and take responsibility for organising and initiating their own games, many of which develop their imagination. For example, they particularly enjoy pretending to play schools, being at the hairdressers and going to the library to borrow books. They develop independence as they choose freely and eagerly from a range of toys and activities.

Children's social skills are well encouraged as they have formed close friendships within the setting. Older children freely talk between themselves and discuss various aspects. They talk about their day at school and discuss their families. They acquire new knowledge and skills through engaging in first-hand experiences such as painting, gluing and sticking to make collage pictures. The childminder follows a child-led approach when required. Children are interested in what they do which enables them to develop their concentration skills as they participate in making cards for different celebrations.

Children are well supported in their school work. For example, the childminder helps them learn their spellings, she listens to them read and they play simple mathematical games. They enjoy going on visits within the local area and look at different landmarks. They develop their manipulative skills as they use paint brushes, crayons, and pencils to draw and paint creatively. Children of all ages relate well to each other.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop their knowledge and understanding of the local community through visits to the park, walking to the shops and during school runs. For example, interesting aspects such as the different colours of cars, house numbers and areas where their families live are pointed out to children. Children have equal access to toys and resources. Children's early knowledge of the wider community is encouraged through access to books and activities that include diversity and link to cultural and religious festivals. For example, the children make cards for Eid, Diwali and Easter and make divas. The childminder has an understanding of the relevant issues to consider, if asked to care for a child with special educational needs.

Children are treated as individuals because the childminder discusses their individual needs and routines with the parents. Children develop a sense of belonging within the setting as children are familiar with where resources are stored, she talks to them about their day at school and has built up a close bond with them. Children's individual needs are met because the childminder tries to ensure, through discussion with parents that she is aware of their specific needs. For example, any dietary or medical requirements, their likes and dislikes, and their interests which enable them to come into the childminder's house and play happily.

Children behave well. They are developing an awareness of sharing and taking turns, which is encouraged by the childminder to help their social development. The older children understand house rules such as being kind to each other. The children very quickly came out with a phrase 'sharing is caring'. They understand and know what is expected of them. They learn to begin to care for, and respect, each other through the childminder's use of praise and encouragement. The childminder is consistent in her approach and uses appropriate methods of dealing with any issues.

The partnership with parents is satisfactory. Written agreements are in place and this ensures that they are clear with regards to their roles and responsibilities. Parents are kept informed of their children's day through daily discussions.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home and the organisation of space and resources allows them to make choices. They are able to make choices and decisions of whether they wish to play in the dining area, lounge or in the bedroom. Clear floor space is provided for imaginative play, as well as comfortable seating for children to relax in homely surroundings. This helps them to feel secure and develop their play and ideas.

The childminder makes satisfactory use of her time and due to children's part-time hours of attendance they have periods of individual attention. The majority of the documentation to maintain the childminding business is in order and readily available, although there are omissions for certain aspects. The childminder completes relevant training, which helps to improve knowledge and support childcare practices. Her registration certificate is displayed so that parents are able to know that she remains suitable to care for children.

Parents are mainly informed of the childminder's practice and procedures through daily verbal discussion. Children have good levels of continuity of care because the childminder regularly shares information with parents.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable as this is the first 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 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):

- obtain written permission from parents to the seeking of any emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure that all electrical sockets in areas accessible to children are fitted with socket covers.

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