

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	226086
Inspection date	05 June 2007
Inspector	Hazel Christine White

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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1992. She lives with her adult son in the Market Harborough area of Leicestershire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She occasionally attends a local parent and toddler group. The childminder has two dogs, three rabbits and an aviary of birds.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for eight children, three of whom are pre-school age. All children attend on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where satisfactory hygiene routines minimise the spread of infection. They are reminded to wash their hands before meals, after going to the toilet and handling animals. Children rest and sleep according to their needs because they follow their home routines as discussed with their parents. They are not fully protected from

accidents and emergencies because records relating to children's health are not kept. Accident and medication records are not in place and written consent for medication and seeking emergency treatment or advice has not been obtained from parents. Parents do not give written permission for medication to be administered and accidents are not recorded when they occur. The childminder does not have a current first aid certificate. She demonstrated through discussion that accidents are dealt with in a calm manner. The first aid box is sufficiently stocked and readily available.

Children are well nourished because they are provided with hot and cold snacks which are prepared as needed. Their individual dietary needs are taken into account because of the discussions the childminder has with their parents. Children are encouraged to eat healthily and are regularly offered fruit. Children sit to the table when they are eating their snacks and are learning good manners. Drinking water is readily available throughout the day.

Children enjoy a satisfactory range of activities which contribute to their physical health. They have some wheeled toys, a baby swing and ball games in the garden. Children manoeuvre bikes along the path and avoid obstacles. They walk to and from school on a daily basis and are beginning to learn that being active promotes good health and the impact it has on their body, such as making them strong.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment and space is appropriately organised to enable children to experience a variety of play opportunities in the living room. Toys, equipment and furniture are safe, clean and in a satisfactory condition. Storage enables children to safely access resources for themselves because most are stored on the floor. Potential hazards have been minimised by the use of safety equipment such as socket covers. Children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised because of satisfactory security indoors and in the garden.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe because they are made aware of potential dangers, for example, not walking around with food and drinks. They are beginning to take responsibility for their own safety when outside and have discussions about not engaging in conversations with adults that they do not know. They are developing an understanding of road safety and look and listen for traffic when they walk to and from school. An emergency escape procedure is in place and practised, therefore, children are familiar with what to do in the event of a fire.

Children's welfare is not fully safeguarded because the childminder has an insufficient knowledge of her role and responsibilities in child protection. Referral details and contact numbers are not known, therefore, appropriate procedures cannot be put into practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in a homely environment. They play with an appropriate range of activities which are educational and contribute to their learning. Most resources are easily accessible and children are developing independence as they choose their own toys and activities. The childminder has an adequate knowledge of child development and a good awareness of the children's likes and dislikes. She ensures that children have a sufficient range of resources which are suitable for their age and stage of development.

Children follow their home routines and experience free play which encourages them to use their initiative. They make decisions about what activities they wish to select and play with and access toys such as books, construction toys, domestic play and board games. Children enjoy being creative and make cakes and paint pictures. Baby toys are readily available and older children are able to bring toys from home to play with, for example, game boys. They experience some learning and play opportunities outside of the home such as trips to the park and library.

Children have developed a good relationship with the childminder. They are shown affection and are encouraged to ask questions which helps them to gain new knowledge and skills. The childminder joins in with the children's spontaneous play and supports them to complete activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children are adequately cared for as individuals because the childminder has ongoing discussions with parents regarding their needs. Children become aware of the wider world and learn to appreciate and value each others' similarities and differences because the childminder has a positive attitude towards others. Children choose from a satisfactory range of toys which reflect diversity, for example, books, multi-cultural dolls, play figures and some dressing up clothes.

Children are encouraged to feel good about themselves and all enjoy activities that will encourage them to reach their full potential. The childminder has experience of caring for children with disabilities, she demonstrated a sound knowledge of their additional needs. Children are supported and encouraged to integrate because activities are adapted as necessary to ensure that children of all abilities can take part.

Children are learning to respect one another and are encouraged to share and take turns when playing. They are reminded of expected behaviour and have clear boundaries. Children receive praise and encouragement to promote good behaviour.

Parents share information verbally about their children's individual needs and interests. They are helped to settle in by having a gradual introduction and the childminder creates a home from home environment. However, for some children, there are no records of their medical details and emergency contacts. No children have signed consent forms, therefore, this impacts on the effectiveness of meeting individual children's needs. The childminder is unfamiliar with the complaints procedure and has no systems in place for recording concerns, consequently, parents are unaware of the process and complaints may not be dealt with appropriately.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a relaxed, homely environment and space is appropriately organised to enable children to experience a satisfactory range of play activities. Children self-select resources and move freely between activities. However, the lack of policies and procedures impacts on promoting the welfare, care and learning of the children. The childminder does not have a copy of the National Standards for under 8's day care and childminding, therefore, is unaware of written records, consent or documentation that she is required to keep. This results in her practice not sufficiently meeting the needs of individual children. Overall children's needs are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that a record of accidents was maintained, no matter how minor, ensure that all hazardous chemicals were inaccessible to children, ensure that children had access to an appropriate range of resources and activities that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and ensure that the fire blanket was easily accessible in an emergency. There is no system in place to record accidents, therefore positive steps have not been taken to promote children's health. Chemicals have been moved to ensure that they are not accessible to the children and the fire blanket is readily available on the kitchen. These precautions have minimised the risk to children. The childminder has added to resources which promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Therefore, children are extending their knowledge and understanding of the wider world.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- keep a written record, signed by parents, of accidents and medicines given to children
- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- improve knowledge of and develop systems for the recording of complaints, in line with regulations and make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint
- develop knowledge of safeguarding children procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines
- record children's hours of attendance on a daily basis and ensure that records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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