

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	255063
Inspection date	03 September 2007
Inspector	Emma Neads
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 2000. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a house in Rowley Regis. The house is within walking distance of shops, parks and schools. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and children have access to the downstairs toilet. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children some of whom attend on a part time basis. The childminder has a dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and attends local toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are very healthy because they are provided with a varied and balanced diet. Their diet includes nutritional foods such as salads and fruit. Children are independent in asking for fruit

such as oranges and apples. Children remain hydrated throughout the day because they are reminded to drink plenty of water, squash or juice. Children's individual requirements are adhered to as the childminder requests such information from parents. Individual records are kept for children and information is regularly updated.

Children are supported in keeping themselves healthy. Daily walks to the local park provide children with exciting opportunities to run around freely enjoying the fresh air. Children also have access to a well resourced garden. Children learn to use their bodies in different ways by using equipment such as bikes, space hoppers, scooters and climbing frames.

Children's personal hygiene is well promoted because the childminder encourages children to be responsible for their own needs. Routines such as washing hands after using the toilet and before mealtimes are embedded in children's daily routines. The risk of cross-contamination is greatly reduced because children use individual hand towels and gel soap. Younger children requiring nappy changes are additionally protected from cross-infections as they have their own individual changing mats.

Children are very well protected if they become ill whilst in the childminder's care. The childminder is first aid trained and has effective policies and procedures in place enabling a high level of care to be provided.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are happy and well settled in a child-friendly environment. On arrival, children run into the room giving hugs to everyone. Children are eager to play with their favourite toys which are easily accessible to them. Children are safe and secure as they are supervised at all times. Children are safe to play in the garden as locked gates prevent children from leaving the premises.

Children are able to play with resources that are safe and appropriate for their purpose. Toys are checked regularly to ensure they conform to safety standards. Children have access to a varied range of activities that are age-appropriate and enable children to develop their emotional, intellectual, social, creative and physical skills.

Children's safety is very well promoted. The childminder has a high regard for their welfare and ensures all possible steps are taken to reduce their risk of harm. For example, children regularly practise fire evacuation procedures with the childminder. Children are very well protected when on outings. Young children walk with the childminder whilst older children walk close by. The childminder ensures that a first aid kit is taken and that all parental contact numbers are stored in her mobile phone. Children learn how to keep themselves safe through regular discussions with the childminder. Children know not to walk by the road, to look left and right when crossing the road and to stay close to the childminder.

Children's welfare is mostly safeguarded. The childminder demonstrates a good awareness of identifying signs and symptoms of abuse. She is aware of current child protection guidelines, however she does not keep handy the local social services telephone number, consequently in the event of a child protection concern, this potentially compromises children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children flourish in this warm and caring environment. Children are eager to cuddle each other to express their emotions. Children are able to self-select resources from low-level shelving. Children are able to play with toys that interest them. For example, children who like animals are able to play with animal jigsaws and benefit from visits to local pet shops.

Children are encouraged to be independent, confident and to develop their self-esteem. Children snuggle with the childminder whilst reading a book together chosen by the children. Children sit for long periods of time holding the pages and asking questions. Children play with resources that allow children to build on their natural curiosity as learners. For example, flash cards are used to extend their knowledge of different animals such as zebras.

Children are listened to and are asked questions to indicate their interest. Children are asked to make appropriate sounds according to corresponding animal pictures. They are praised for their efforts and their self-esteem is additionally developed. Children are helped to learn about what is right and wrong. Older children act as positive role models and treat younger children with care and respect. Children are able to direct their play depending on their own needs. For example, some children want to learn how to tell the time, so the childminder designed a clock making activity. This helped all children learn about the concept of time.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and treated as individuals. Children are provided with equal access to an appropriate range of activities and facilities. For example, boys and girls experiment with dressing up clothes and play with dolls and teddy bears. Children's best interests are at the heart of everything the childminder does. The childminder liaises with parents to find out particular likes and dislikes. Children are offered favourite toys and resources. This in turn helps them to develop effectively. Children are very secure and feel good about themselves because they receive lots of praise and attention. Children try to complete a jigsaw with the childminder and are told, 'Well done' when they complete it.

Children are encouraged to develop their knowledge and understanding of their wider society. Children have good access to appropriate toys such as dressing up clothes, dolls with disabilities and resources reflecting a variety of cultures. Although the childminder has little experience of providing care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, she demonstrates a good understanding of where she would seek additional information from to care for children with specific needs.

Children display very good responsible behaviour. The childminder works well with parents and finds out about behaviour management methods used at home and ensures she takes account of this in her care routines. This ensures children remain familiar and secure and understand their boundaries. Parents play an important part in their children's care. All required documentation is maintained and shared with parents. This enables children to be well cared for and ensure parents remain informed of the childminder's routines and child care practices.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall children's needs are met. Children receive good levels of care which is familiar to that received at home. Parents provide relevant information to help the childminder provide a secure and stable environment. Records, policies and procedures are well maintained. This ensures that children's welfare is well promoted. Children have good levels of space to be able to play freely and additional space is provided through use of local parks and activity centres.

Children's safety is a high priority for the childminder. Daily registers of attendance are maintained and all accident and medical records are kept up to date. Children are supervised at all times and are not left with anyone unsuitable. Children's records are shared with parents and are updated regularly. Parents are informed daily of their children's achievements and care routines through verbal informal conversations.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure all children are aware of the procedures to follow in the event of a fire. Children's safety is now well protected because they regularly practise evacuation procedures and know where to go in the event of a fire.

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):

- update knowledge of child protection procedures, with regard to the contact numbers needed to report any concerns.

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