

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY259982
Inspection date	06 September 2007
Inspector	Christine Cutts
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 2002. She lives with her three children aged five, 10 and 11 years old.

She lives in a semi-detached house in a no-through road, close to the centre of Caversham. All areas of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. Local facilities include parks, the river, shops and a library. The childminder is prepared to take and collect children from local pre-school groups and The Hill primary school.

The family have two cats and keep goldfish.

The childminder is registered to care for five children under eight, and is currently minding 14 all on a part time basis.

No children with learning difficulties currently attending or children for whom English is an additional language.

The childminder holds a NVQ level 3 qualification in child care, is an accredited childminder and has been awarded the Reading quality assurance scheme approval.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are able to play in a healthy environment as all areas used by them are clean; hygienic nappy changing procedures are in place and the childminder protects children from illness and cross infection by providing individual named towels. Children begin to learn about hygiene procedures, and are praised for washing hands before snacks.

Children enjoy and benefit from physical activity as they have regular walks, outings to the local park and visits to activity centres or 'finding a thing' in the woods for the nature box. The large garden provides lots of opportunities for the children to enjoy playing and learning outdoors, including chalking a garden length snake, vibrate with spots and stripes. Children enjoy physical activity indoors as there is sufficient space to move freely and play floor games, with large garage and cars. Children are able to sleep when necessary in a travel cot where a baby monitor is available and children are checked regularly.

Good procedures are in place to ensure that children receive appropriate care in the event of an accident or illness. For example, the childminder contacts parents to collect children if they become ill. However, written parental consents for emergency medical treatment and prior consents for medication do not name the children for whom they are intended.

Children receive a good diet and have regular meals and snack times. The childminder supplies home cooked meals for the children. Children develop a good understanding of foods as they have grown potatoes in the past, one child didn't like potatoes, but after growing their own, digging them up and cooking them, the children now enjoy eating potatoes. The childminder discussed recycling with the children as the peelings go in the right recycling bin. Children receive additional snacks of fruit from the childminder when appropriate. Drinks are freely available for children throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children have access to a safe and very child friendly environment where they freely move around the house, confident and safe because the childminder gives excellent consideration to all safety issues. Children's risk of injury is minimal as the childminder assesses risks well and takes good precautions to prevent accidents. For example, a stair gate prevents access to the stairs and the front door is secure. Children are able to explore their surroundings safely as they are usually within sight of the childminder and always within her hearing.

Children are able to play with an extensive range of safe toys and resources, which the childminder ensures are easily accessible and appropriate for the ages of the children present. The childminder ensures that the children's developmental needs are excellently well supported with the very good organisation of the toys and resources available.

Excellent fire prevention and evacuation procedures help to keep children safe in the event of an emergency, including clearly displayed fire procedures and evacuation plans and recording information in a fire log. Children develop a very good understanding of keeping themselves safe by, practising evacuations, talking about road safety and gentle reminders from the childminder to keep themselves safe.

Children stay safe when away from the premises as the childminder has appropriate procedures in place, such as risk assessments for outings, children's restraints for the car, wrist straps when walking and teaching them to look and listen for traffic.

Children are very well protected from harm from others as the childminder has a very good understanding of her role in child protection. For example, she is aware of possible symptoms of abuse, is aware to record any concerns and to notify Ofsted. She has a clear collection policy and visitors book in place and ensures that the children are never left unsupervised with unvetted adults.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children show interest in what they do and are able to develop a full range of skills, as there is an excellent variety of activities available. For example, books, nature box, cars and construction toys are easily accessible to younger children, and older children enjoy a variety of art and craft activities, making the butterfly cycle pictures.

Children receive excellent support from the childminder as she helps them to develop new skills, such as learning to use a magnifying glass or talking about story books. She consistently uses questions and discussion to help extend their learning, for example 'What does the conker feel like?' and, 'Look at the butterfly wing, it has beautiful colours'. Children have sufficient time to explore their interests and the childminder follows their lead, talking about colours and spots and stripes on the giant snake the children have chalked outside.

Children's developmental needs are excellently supported as the childminder discusses with parents their children's current developmental needs and agrees with them what activities and resources will best support the children onto their next steps. The childminder then develops detail plans of activities linked to the Foundation Stage stepping stones and early learning goals assuring that all areas of learning are covered with activities that the children will enjoy and have fun learning.

Children are very happy and settled as they are able to develop good relationships with the childminder and other children. Children play well together, laughing with each other and learning to share. All the children joined in making the giant snake, a child initiated activity in which they all cooperated and contributed.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children feel part of the childminding community with the childminder arranging fun days for all the children and parents to meet and socialize together. The children are valued and develop a sense of belonging with their work and pictures displayed in the kitchen and conservatory area.

The childminder promotes equality between the children as she ensures that they are all able to choose toys freely and she gives them equal amounts of attention. The children develop an understanding of others through an excellent range of resources and activities that introduce children to different cultural celebrations and events.

There are currently no children attending with learning difficulties, however, the childminder endeavours to meet the developmental needs of all the children she cares for. The children's needs are very well supported with the childminder and parents having good discussions on the children's individual development. Children benefit from appropriate continuity between the home and the setting as the childminder develops satisfactory relationships with parents. For example, she spends time each day with parents to talk about their children.

Children are able to play a productive part in the setting as they learn to care for each other, helping to develop the house rules. Children learn to become independent as the childminder encourages them to select toys and resources themselves, go to the toilet independently and to help themselves to drinks. Children learn about responsible behaviour as the childminder has a kind and patient approach, rewarding the children with praise and encouragement.

The children benefit from the very good relationships between parents and the childminder, enabling the children's needs to be fully met. Parents receive an excellent range of information including the individual planning for their children. They are fully involved in the planning and provision of topics, themes and the delivery of the education provision the childminder gives to the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are able to make very good progress as the childminder ensures that they are safe and engaged in an excellent range of activities. She uses time and resources very well to develop children's learning. She has excellent skills and experience to support children in her care and maintains the adult to child ratio at all times. She demonstrates very good understanding of the National Standards and supporting criteria. She continues to up date her knowledge and understanding of childcare issues through training and self assessment.

All regulatory documentation is in place and works well in practice, although written consent from parents do not identify the children for whom they are related. She is aware of the Birth to three matters framework and uses this in practice to support her care of young children.

Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Children are further protected as non prescribed medicines are now listed on parental consents for prior permission to administer medication. However, individual children are not always identified on those permissions.

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):

- ensure that written parental consents for emergency medical treatment and prior consents for medication, clearly identify the individual children.

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