

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	258268
Inspection date	31 July 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 2001. She lives with her husband and child aged 14. The family live in the area of Thurnby Lodge in Leicester. The childminder uses the whole of the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden suitable for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight at any one time. She is currently minding three children, two of whom are under five years of age. The childminder takes the children to the local park, the shops and other activities outside the home.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic home. They are protected from cross-contamination as the childminder has appropriate cleaning routines. For example, she cleans surfaces with anti-bacterial spray and disposes of nappies appropriately. 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 toileting and the changing mat is cleaned with anti-bacterial wipes after use.

The childminder makes parents aware of the procedure she will follow if their child becomes unwell and that they fully understand that she is not able to care for sick children. The childminder has established appropriate procedures for the administration of medication and recording any accidents. She has obtained clear written consent from parents to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment and has a well stocked first aid box. However, children's health is not fully protected because the childminder does not hold a current first aid certificate.

Children benefit because the childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of how to provide healthy and nutritious snacks, such as fruit. Whilst the childminder does not provide meals she encourages parents to provide healthy options. The childminder ensures that any food brought in is stored appropriately. Drinks are available throughout the day ensuring that they are well hydrated and comfortable. The childminder works with parents to ensure children's health and dietary needs are sufficiently met.

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, go on walks within the local area and enjoy outdoor play in the garden. The children benefit from using a range of outdoor equipment which includes slides, tunnels, tents, sit and ride toys which enable them to develop their co-ordination, confidence and control of their bodies. Children develop their physical skills as they enjoy jumping on the trampoline and balancing on the space hopper.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for within premises that are secure and have been appropriately risk assessed to ensure hazards are inaccessible. For example, the inside and outdoor areas are secure, electrical sockets are protected and low-level glass conforms to safety standards. Children are able to move around the house and garden freely and independently. The childminder has smoke detectors and a fire blanket which are appropriately sited. However, children are not fully protected in the event of a fire because the childminder has not practised an emergency escape plan.

Children play with a range of toys and equipment that are safe and appropriate to their developmental needs. These are organised and are stored in boxes allowing the children to choose independently. The childminder makes sure that she makes regular checks on equipment to ensure they are safe and clean and well-maintained.

Children are kept safe when out of the home, as whilst walking with the children the childminder helps children to develop knowledge and take responsibility for keeping safe. For example, younger children are strapped in a buggy and older children are encouraged to hold onto the buggy and road safety issues are discussed with them. Children are also kept safe when they are transported in a vehicle, as appropriate car and booster seats are used and relevant documentation in relation to outings is maintained.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder is aware of her responsibilities for the welfare of children in her care and has a basic understanding of child protection issues and the procedures to follow should she have a concern about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and at home in the setting, as they have formed good relationships with the childminder and are well occupied. They develop independence as they choose freely and eagerly from a varied range of toys and activities. The children are happy, relaxed and secure in the childminder's care. They feel confident as they relate well to the childminder and they are able to relax, enjoy and play happily whilst in her care. She involves herself and interacts appropriately to support their learning. They are occupied and take responsibility of organising and initiating their own games.

Children's social skills are well encouraged as they have formed close friendships within the setting. Children enjoy playing harmoniously with the cars and garage and jumping high on the trampoline. Children's language and communication skills are supported by activities, such as singing songs and nursery rhymes. The children particularly enjoy dancing and moving to music. They have many opportunities of using their imagination as they pretend to take their babies for a walk to the shops or McDonalds. Children are supported to develop their balancing skills as they laugh and giggle as they go up and down on the space hopper. They develop their physical skills as they go through tunnels and wear boxing gloves to hit the punch bag. They develop their manipulative skills as they use crayons and pencils to draw creatively. Children of all ages relate very well to each other. The childminder follows a child-led approach when required.

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 activities, such as feeding the ducks. For example, interesting aspects, such as flowers, snails and water are pointed out to children. They particularly enjoy going to Tesco to shop and taking the car through the car wash at the garage. Children have equal access to toys and resources. Their developing knowledge of the wider community is limited because they have access to few play materials and activities that promote positive images of diversity. The childminder has an understanding of the relevant issues to consider, if asked to care for a child with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Children have their individual needs met adequately because the childminder discusses their routines and interests with the parents. Children develop a sense of belonging within the setting as children are familiar with where resources are stored, they bring in their own lunch boxes and they are given spontaneous cuddles from the childminder. She takes time to listen to their news and responds appropriately.

Children understand how to share and play happily together and develop their confidence and social development as they play. The childminder is consistent in her approach and age-appropriate methods are used to deal with any issues. The children understand and know what is expected of them which include boundaries within the home to ensure their safety. For example, they are encouraged not to climb on the furniture, not to run indoors and not to play by the stairs. They learn to begin to care for and respect each other through the childminder's

use of praise and encouragement. Children's welfare is sufficiently promoted, as the childminder has friendly relationships with parents enabling regular discussions to take place. Written agreements are maintained and this ensures that all are clear with regards to their roles and responsibilities.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The premises are organised to meet the needs of the children both indoors and outdoors. Children have opportunities to play with a range of toys and are able to select and develop their ideas as they play. Clear floor space is provided for imaginative play, as well as comfortable seating for children to relax in homely surroundings. Routines are well established to help children feel secure.

The majority of the documentation to maintain the childminding business is in order and readily available. Records are stored confidentially, reviewed regularly and emergency information is to hand. 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. Regular discussions with parents take place to ensure information is exchanged to highlight any concerns and to monitor children's progress. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to complete an appropriate first aid course and to obtain public liability insurance. She was asked to ensure that relevant forms are completed for children reaching their sixteenth year who are living on the premises. She was to obtain written permission from parents prior to administering medication and to the seeking of any necessary medical advice or treatment. She was required to improve her system for recording accidents and also her knowledge and understanding on child protection procedures.

Since the last inspection relevant forms have been completed for all children reaching the age of 16 and public liability insurance is in place. The childminder now has prior written permission from parents to administer any medication and the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment. She has improved her system for recording accidents and now has a basic knowledge of child protection procedures. These aspects have improved the safety and well-being of children. However, the childminder has not yet completed an appropriate first aid course so this remains as a further recommendation.

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):

- complete an appropriate first aid course which includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- devise and practise an emergency escape plan
- ensure that children have an appropriate range of resources and activities that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice

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