

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	221354
Inspection date	27 September 2007
Inspector	Jan Burnet
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 was registered in 1997. She lives with her husband and adult son and daughter in a village location on the outskirts of Daventry. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. A rear garden is used for outdoor play. The family has no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding one child under five and 10 school children, four of them under eight years. All children are cared for on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children and attends local parent and toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is appropriately protected because they are aware of good practice with regard to hand washing before meals, after playing in the garden and after using the toilet, and because the childminder provides anti-bacterial liquid soap. The childminder ensures that preventative measures are in place so that risks to children are minimal, for example her food hygiene

practices. The possibility of infection passed from one child to another is low because parents are informed of illnesses that will mean their child should not attend and that they will be expected to collect their child if he or she becomes ill. Children's best interests are served because the childminder holds an in-date first aid certificate.

Children's individual dietary needs are known and satisfactorily addressed by the childminder. Parents currently provide packed lunches for young children and food is safely stored in the fridge by the childminder. She provides fruit for snacks and a light tea for children after school. Children are offered drinks throughout the day. Children who attend late are offered a nutritious cooked meal. Their emotional well-being is assured as the childminder arranges a gradual settling-in period enabling them to feel secure and settled. Children are developing physical skills and confidence with equipment in the childminder's home, at groups and at the park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play, eat and sleep in satisfactorily safe and healthy premises. The main play room is the family sitting room, a recently built conservatory may be used for quiet activities and a ground floor bedroom is used for sleeping children. Children learn to address their personal hygiene needs as they are able to access the ground floor bathroom independently. Their toys and equipment are safe, clean and in a good condition.

Children are learning how to keep themselves safe, for example, road safety as they know that they should stop, look and listen before and whilst crossing the road. The childminder is alert to her responsibilities with regard to supervision at all times. However, the garden is not completely secure and so potentially children's safety is compromised because unwanted visitors are able to access the garden. Children's risk of injury inside the home is minimised because the childminder has identified and appropriately addressed potential hazards. Children gain an awareness of the fire drill because it is periodically practised with them.

The childminder has some awareness of the local safeguarding children procedure but is unclear of some signs of abuse, which potentially puts children's welfare at risk.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for as individuals with different needs and the childminder ensures that a satisfactory variety of activities and resources are available for all. Routines are consistent and include activities inside and outside the home. Children are learning and developing as a result of varied experiences.

Activities inside the home include painting, drawing and colouring, gluing, domestic and imaginative play and construction play. Books and puzzles are always available. All children are able to enjoy activities because the childminder ensures that resources are appropriate for different stages of development. Young children use resources that help them to develop manipulative skills and, as part of routines, they count and name colours and shapes. Children are developing physical skills with stage appropriate equipment and the childminder ensures that their experiences are varied at different toddler groups. They develop social skills and enjoy sessions with other children for stories and singing. The childminder ensures that children are happy and settled.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are known and appropriately met by the childminder. Admission forms are thorough and consistency of care between home and the childminder is assured with a daily share of information. Parents always visit before care of their child begins and they are asked to share as much information as possible on the child at this time. In order to address children's emotional needs, parents are expected to gradually settle their child in. The childminder informs parents that she is happy to receive comments and will record complaints, however, she does not give parents information on how she will respond to written complaints and their right to access complaints records.

The childminder has never been asked to care for children with learning difficulties or disabilities but, when asked, she will find out as much as possible about the child and ensure that she and the parent work together to meet the child's needs. Children gain a satisfactory awareness of diversity as they are able to choose books and toys that reflect positive images and they talk about their own experiences. For example, sharing information on 'French Day' at school when children tasted different foods and learned to speak some words in French.

The childminder expects children to respect others and play together cooperatively. She aims to help children to develop a range of social skills, build their self-esteem and she promotes self-discipline. Children benefit from the childminder's consistent methods of behaviour management which include explanation, re-direction and acknowledging positive behaviour with praise.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled and made welcome in the childminder's home. Thorough admission information and verbal communication with parents ensures that children's needs are known and appropriately met. The childminder ensures that children's developmental needs are satisfactorily addressed with consistent routines, the choice of toys and a balanced range of activities.

Required documentation and records are kept up to date and in satisfactory order. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection the childminder was asked to make sure that the alcohol stored in the lounge, sharp kitchen knives and low-level glass panels in the greenhouse are made safe or inaccessible. These issues have been satisfactorily addressed. Children are safe because the cabinet in the lounge is locked, a lock is fitted to the draw in the kitchen where knives are stored and film has been fitted to the greenhouse glass. The childminder was asked to make sure that the hours of attendance are recorded for all children looked after. This recommendation has been satisfactorily addressed.

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):

- ensure that the garden is secure
- develop knowledge of the signs of abuse and neglect
- develop the complaints procedure to include revision to criteria October 2005.

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