

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	226521
Inspection date	09 August 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 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 1990. She lives with her husband and two adult children. They live in the Rushey Mead 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 has a level two childcare qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for two pre-school aged children on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where good hygiene routines minimise the spread of infection. They have their own flannels and towels and learn that hand washing routines are important because it helps to prevent germs. Children's personal care needs are well met, young children have their own changing mats and separate potties. They follow home routines as

discussed with parents which reflect their individual requirements. Accident and medication procedures are in place. The childminder has a current first aid certificate and the first aid box is properly stocked and readily available. Most children have written permission from their parents to seek emergency advice or treatment. However, the health and safety of those who do not, may be compromised. Children suffer few accidents and parents are provided with a written health and safety policy.

Children experience a good range of activities which promotes their physical development. They walk to and from the local park and enjoy going to the library and shopping. Children are developing skills and confidence during physical play activities when using climbing equipment. They play in a ball pit and manoeuvre wheeled toys in the garden. Through discussion, they learn that being active promotes good health and that the impact on their body is, they get strong muscles and a healthy heart.

Children are well nourished because they are provided with a varied range of healthy snacks and meals such as curries, fish and vegetarian dishes. Parents can view the two week menu or alternatively they can provide packed lunches or food to be re-heated for their own children. Individual dietary needs are taken into account and likes and dislikes are known. The childminder has a food hygiene certificate and storage and reheating procedures are good. Drinking water and diluted juices are offered throughout the day. Mealtimes are social occasions and children are encouraged to sit at a child-sized table to eat.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. They are unable to leave the premises unsupervised because of appropriate security. Potential hazards have been identified and minimised by the use of safety equipment such as stair gates and socket covers. Visual checks are carried out on toys and equipment to enable children to make safe, independent choices. Resources are in good condition and suitable for the age and stage of the children using them.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe because they are made aware of potential dangers such as not having small items when babies are present, not climbing on furniture or going into the kitchen. They are developing an understanding of road safety and have clear procedures when walking to and from the library and park. Children listen well to instructions and know that they must stay close to the childminder. Smoke alarms are on both levels and in working order and the emergency escape plan has been practised.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because of the childminder's sound understanding of her role and responsibilities in child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. They form good relationships with each other, the childminder and her family. Children frequently socialise with other children as they attend organised groups and visit parks and the library. They play with a wide range of activities which are educational and contribute to their learning. Resources are easily accessible and most are organised so children can help themselves, therefore they develop their independence.

Children match pictures and shapes during one to one play with the childminder and they count objects during spontaneous play and daily routines. Children's language is developing well. They learn new words during their play and they can talk confidently about things that they know. Children have good opportunities to use their imagination and be creative. They paint, glue and make models from dough. Children particularly enjoy role play and pretend to visit the doctors, library and the supermarket. They have conversations on the mobile phone and eagerly make drinks and meals for visitors in the play kitchen.

Children receive affection, support and guidance. They are provided with activities according to their likes and interests. Children enjoy free play and activities are planned around their home routines, including sleep and mealtimes. They are appropriately challenged and show an interest in their chosen activities. The childminder has a secure knowledge of child development and a good awareness of the children's individual needs and personalities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children receive individual care according to their needs because the childminder has discussions with parents. Both boys and girls have equal access to resources, none are specifically kept for either gender. Resources sufficiently reflect a positive view of the wider world and people in society, therefore children are developing their knowledge and understanding of diversity. They celebrate some religious and cultural festivals such as Christmas, Diwali and Vaisaki. Children are cared for in an environment where they are encouraged to have a positive attitude towards others. Although there are no children currently attending who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities, the childminder was able to demonstrate through discussion how activities are adapted to ensure that children of all abilities can take part.

Children are well behaved. They are learning to respect one another and are encouraged to share and take turns when playing. Children have been introduced to house safety rules and are reminded of boundaries. They receive praise and encouragement which promotes good behaviour. Children learn to be kind and considerate to one another and any disagreements are quickly resolved.

Parents share information about their children's individual needs and interests. Children are helped to settle in by having a gradual introduction. They are relaxed and have developed a sense of belonging. Parents' wishes are taken into account with regard to their children's care and good communication exists. The childminder has developed a health and safety policy for parents to read. Information about the complaints procedure is available, however, this has not been fully shared with parents. Therefore, they are unaware of the regulators details and as a result concerns may not be dealt with effectively.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, homely environment. Policies and procedures are appropriate in promoting the welfare, care and learning of the children. Information exchanged and regular discussions with parents ensure her practice is satisfactory in meeting the needs of individual children. Space is sufficiently organised to enable children to experience a wide variety of play activities and follow their familiar daily routines. Children select most resources independently and move freely between areas.

Records are securely and confidentially stored. The childminder has attended various courses to keep her knowledge and skills updated and recently completed an NVQ childcare qualification to level two. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to review and extend resources which reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and people with differing needs. Play figures which show positive images of gender and ability have been added to the resources. The library is used to enhance the selection of books and other toys which reflect diversity are loaned from a Resource Centre. As a result, children are sufficiently 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 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):

- obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency consent or advice for all children
- further develop knowledge of the current complaints procedure and ensure parent's are aware of the regulators details if they wish to raise a concern.

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