

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	260114
Inspection date	25 October 2007
Inspector	Ann Winifred Harrison

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 was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and two children aged 18 and 11 years in Coton in the Elms, Derbyshire. The whole ground floor is used for childminding.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for three children under eight years and three children over eight years on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to the local school and pre-school to take and collect children. The childminder holds an early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and hygiene is promoted well within the setting. They wash their hands before eating and are encouraged to clean their teeth. They are learning that germs may make them poorly. Independence is encouraged, as children access the bathroom independently and use their own towels. This promotes their self-care and reduces the risk of cross-infection. Gloves used for nappy changing and the wiping of the mat after use help to prevent

cross-contamination. There is a clear policy in place for excluding sick and infectious children which helps to limit the spread of infection. This helps children to remain healthy.

Children benefit from being cared for in a clean and very well-organised home. Procedures in case of illness and who to contact in case of emergencies are fully detailed. This information helps to ensure appropriate action is taken to care for children who are injured or become ill. The childminder is aware of her responsibility regarding reporting communicable diseases. This means children are protected. The childminder keeps a record of accidents and medication administered in line with the regulations.

Children benefit from the childminder working in partnership with parents to meet their individual dietary needs. Parents provide packed lunches and the childminder makes suggestions for healthy options that could be included, such as fruit and yoghurts. Snacks provided by the childminder offer healthy choices, such as fruit, toast, crackers and crumpets. The childminder introduces new fruit to children during topic work. For example, they try pomegranates and kebabs when learning about Egypt. Drinks are accessible and children help themselves. The childminder talks to the children about the importance of drinking water. Routines are flexible and children are able to rest according to their needs.

Children's physical development is promoted effectively through the regular and varied activities provided. Children are taken on visits to the local park where they practise their climbing and balancing skills. They walk to school on a daily basis. They are active inside as they sing action songs and have good space to walk from room to room. They have fun as they practise 'belly dancing' with the childminder as part of a topic on Egypt. This encourages children to develop their physical skills and a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The home offers a welcoming environment which is maintained well. There is good space for children to play comfortably with toys and equipment. There is a good range of toys which are organised effectively so that children can easily access them. They confidently make choices as they choose cars and figures from the treasure chest to play with. This helps children to develop their independence well. The childminder ensures that all equipment is regularly cleaned and checked which helps to keep children safe.

Good attention is given to keeping children safe. The house is secure, with locks on both doors to prevent strangers entering and children leaving unsupervised. Good precautions, such as socket covers and a secure fire guard to prevent children accessing the hearth, enable children to play safely. The childminder has been extremely proactive in ensuring the fire safety of the home through ensuring she checks smoke alarms and batteries. Children learn how to keep themselves safe through the clear boundaries set by the childminder. They learn that they should not talk to strangers and that they must stop look and listen before crossing the road. They know how to react in the event of a fire as they regularly practise the emergency evacuation procedure. This helps children to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

The childminder has a clear understanding of child protection issues. She has a good understanding of signs and symptoms that may alert her to child abuse and fully understands the procedures for reporting concerns. This helps to ensure children are protected from harm or neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and at home in the well-organised environment. They move around freely to make decisions about their play and develop their independence well. The childminder plans activities in advance to ensure they are age-appropriate, but is flexible and will change her plans if the children request something different. She constantly talks to the children during activities to promote their development and understanding. For example, she talks about the desert as they play with toy camels in sand and they make pyramids with building blocks.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the childminder's home. They achieve well because the childminder uses her knowledge of child development to provide a good variety of activities to help children make progress. She uses activities well to further extend children's learning as she introduces early mathematical language such as 'empty' and 'full' as they move the cars around the floor. Children show good interest and their concentration is well developed as they engage in the varied activities on offer. They enjoy icing biscuits and making fruit salads. They are relaxed in the childminder's company and experience a warm relationship with her and her family. This increases their sense of trust and well-being. The children choose their own resources and initiate their own play. For example, they enjoy selecting activities, such as threading, books and jigsaw puzzles. Children explore different textures and materials as they play. They model with play dough and enjoy making collages with a variety of materials.

Children receive a high level of individual attention as the childminder spends most of her time working directly with them and ensures their individual routine needs are met. Activities are interesting and challenging and children are happy and settled. Parents are regularly informed on their children's progress and activities, this contributes to continuity in the children's care. The childminder is using the 'Birth to three matters' framework well to enable her to plan and provide suitable play activities for children under three years. She makes observations of the children to find out what they know. She then uses these to plan for children's next steps in learning to help them make progress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are clearly understood and respected by the childminder. All children are welcomed and included in the provision. The childminder provides a range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and to help children understand differences and similarities. They look at books about children from around the world and they celebrate different festivals such as Diwali and Hanukah. Children also learn to value differences through discussions with the childminder about other countries such as Australia and Egypt. The childminder has good procedures in place to care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in the setting. She supports children well and works closely with the parents to ensure individual needs are met.

Children are involved in making choices about their play. Activities and resources are arranged at appropriate heights and levels to enable children to select their own toys and initiate their own play. The childminder has a good understanding of how to manage children's behaviour to promote their welfare and development. She has a variety of strategies suitable to the age range of the children to deal with unwanted behaviour. For example, she uses distraction with young children and for older children she sits and talks to them calmly for a few minutes and explains why it is unacceptable. As a result children play together and behave well. Good use

of praise and encouragement and rewards of stickers helps to build children's self-esteem and confidence and promotes good behaviour. Children learn how to share and take turns.

The childminder is proactive in developing positive relationships with parents. Written policies are given to them and written consent forms are in place to ensure parents' wishes are respected. There is a clear settling in policy to ensure the smooth transition for the child into the childminder's care. Children's individual needs are discussed and recorded at initial visits and information about their welfare, activities and behaviour is exchanged on a daily basis. This enables parents and the childminder to work together to meet the needs of the child.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's needs are met very effectively through the good use of space and resources. Their care is enhanced by efficient and effective organisation. The childminder has a routine and prepares for each session with relevant age-appropriate resources and activities. Free play, craft time, and outdoor play are included to ensure children have a good balance of educational and developmental experiences. Children are able to access resources and toys to initiate their own play and learning because the childminder has organised toys and resources in children's reach.

Children are very settled and happy. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the National Standards and has devised very detailed policies and procedures to ensure they are suitably met. Good documentation contributing to the children's well-being, health, safety and care are in place. For example, accident and medication consent procedures. Individual records are completed for each child and written agreements are in place with each parent. An accurate record of children's attendance is completed daily and the registration certificate is fully displayed.

There are some arrangements in place to protect children from people who are not vetted, however, not all adults living in the household have been vetted. This means children are not fully protected. The childminder is committed to quality childcare. She holds a relevant childcare qualification and has attended many training courses to enhance her skills and knowledge. For example, food hygiene, 'Birth to three matters' framework and behaviour management. This benefits the children and promotes their all-round development. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to provide a suitable range of toys and activities, in order to meet the developmental needs of babies. To address this the childminder has purchased some equipment such as soft toys and musical toys which are suitable for this age range. She also uses the toy library at the local toddler group which means she can provide a wide variety of toys suitable for young children. This means their developmental needs are met.

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 all persons over 16 years living in the household are suitably vetted

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