

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223812
Inspection date	09 August 2007
Inspector	Kathryn Mary Harding

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 2000. She lives with her husband and adult son in Market Drayton, Shropshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a cat.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a warm clean setting where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene and personal care through the daily routines. They are encouraged to use

individual flannels and clean their teeth after eating. Good procedures are in place to record administration of medication and to protect children from the sun.

The childminder provides freshly prepared, healthy and nutritious snacks and meals such as fruit, fish and vegetables. She takes account of the wishes of parents and the children's choices to meet their dietary requirements. Children are involved in the buying of the food on a daily basis and help to prepare snacks and meals. As they buy the food they talk about what is healthy and why. Older children lay the table and pretend to be in a café, so making meal times fun and enjoyable. Children are offered regular drinks such as milk or water so that they do not become thirsty.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their good health. They learn about healthy living as they talk about bugs, poorly tummies and are encouraged to be active. There are outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example, footballs and sit and ride toys. Children take part in a range of activities, such as craft activities and construction sets to help develop their fine control skills. Daily walks, dancing and swimming help improve children's physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment which is warm and where there is plenty of space for them to play in. The play room is made more welcoming by children's pictures and posters being displayed. In order to help keep children safe the childminder checks the rooms prior to the children arriving. Safety precautions such as socket covers and cupboard locks are in place.

Children independently select activities from a range of good quality toys and resources, which meet safety standards and are regularly checked. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises their choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children are encouraged to keep themselves safe as they talk about road safety when outside the home and what to do should they become lost. They also practise fire drills in order to have an understanding of the evacuation procedure and keep themselves safe.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection matters and knows the correct procedures to follow if she has a concern, so children's welfare is safeguarded. She has attended a child protection workshop and has relevant information to hand, if she needs to pass on any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and interested to learn and openly express their feelings of happiness. Close and caring relationships between the childminder and the children have formed, which increases their sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of self. The childminder supports the children very well in their play, as they go to get water to put the dolphin in and play skittles together.

Children engage in a wide range of activities which promote their overall development very well, such as imaginary play, craft activities and reading. The childminder ensures that children have good opportunities to develop social skills by taking them to toddler groups to meet other

children and on other visits to places such as museums. The relaxed atmosphere encourages the children to play and ask for support where necessary, as they ask the childminder to come and play in the sand.

Resources are stored at child height and are easily accessible for children in the play room. They choose and make decisions about their play, encouraging them to be independent learners. The childminder has the 'Birth to three matters' framework and adapts activities to promote younger children's learning, such as when taking part in co-ordination activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to choose from the range of toys regardless of gender. Children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others is extended as the childminder has a sound range of activities and resources to positively reflect diversity. The childminder ensures that children are treated as individuals and meets their specific needs effectively.

Children learn to negotiate with others and take responsibility for their own behaviour, as the childminder has clear strategies in place to deal with unwanted behaviour. Their understanding of right and wrong is increased as they are given explanations why the behaviour is not acceptable. They are encouraged to share the toys and are given clear and consistent boundaries so promoting consideration for each other.

Partnership with parents is good and the childminder keeps parents well informed about how their child has been, what they have been doing and where they are planning on going. The childminder has a diary which details the weeks events and chats at length with parents when they arrive to collect their child. This ensures consistency of care. A procedure for recording complaints is available and parents are made aware of this.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder demonstrates a high regard for children's well-being and offers them a good level of support. The childminder is keen to enhance her practice and is prepared to attend training and workshops. This is helping to develop her knowledge and understanding of childcare issues and giving ideas for further improvement to the childminding service. The children are at home in the well-organised environment and are confident to initiate their own play and learning.

The childminder works well to promote children's health, enjoyment and achievement. Policies and procedures are in place to ensure that children are cared for consistently. The certificate of registration is displayed so parents are aware of the conditions of registration. Confidentiality is maintained as all paperwork is stored securely.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to: extend the range of resources which promote positive images of diversity; improve fire safety precautions by ensuring that the fire blanket is wall mounted in the kitchen; make sure that children do not have access to the stairs leading

to the third floor and update knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, guidelines and procedures. The childminder has extended the range of toys and resources that reflect diversity, mounted the fire blanket on the kitchen wall and installed a stair gate, so the third floor is inaccessible to the children. The childminder has also attended a child protection workshop and obtained much literature on this subject.

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):

- consolidate the developing knowledge and understanding of childcare issues so that it continues to improve the outcomes for 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