

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	206040
Inspection date	09 August 2007
Inspector	Justine Ellaway
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 1990. She lives with her husband and two children aged 19 and 22 years in Derby. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house, apart from the conservatory, is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder works with another registered childminder. Both childminders have joint responsibility for the childminding practice. Together they care for a maximum of six children at any one time. They are currently minding one child under five on a part-time basis and four children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has two rabbits, three guinea pigs and fish.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is well promoted within the environment. The childminder employs suitable hygiene procedures through the daily routine and follows clear written policies. Tables

are cleaned with anti-bacterial spray for example, after a baking activity. Pets are cleaned out regularly and children encouraged to wash their hands when they have handled them.

Children understand simple good health and hygiene practices. They are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times such as after toileting. The risk of infection is suitably minimised as children use liquid soap for hand washing and use flannels and towels that are washed and changed regularly. A clear sick child policy is shared with parents at the time of placement.

Children's good health is promoted when they are ill. Both accident and medication records are appropriately completed and signed by parents. Permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice has been requested at the time of placement to ensure children receive appropriate treatment in the event of an emergency.

Children enjoy daily opportunities to engage in physical play which effectively promotes the development of their large muscle skills. Younger children go swimming, to the library and to a soft play centre. After school children go to the park on the way home from school when the weather is dry. Children go on outings during the school holidays to local parks and other venues such as farms.

The childminder has a sound understanding of healthy eating and plans a menu for the children which is both varied and appealing. They enjoy foods such as jacket potato with cheese and beans, followed by yoghurt or fruit. Information on dietary needs and allergies are obtained at the time of placement and a sample menu is shared with parents to ensure children's needs are met. They are offered adequate quantities of food so they do not become hungry. Drinks are constantly available, children have a beaker of drink that they can help themselves to at any time.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright, appealing and child-friendly environment. There is a dedicated playroom which has lots of colourful posters on display. It is very well laid out, with the toys and resources stored around the perimeter of the room leaving space in the middle for floor play. Children access a very good range of toys and resources including drawing and colouring materials, role play, books, construction such as wooden bricks, cars and games. All of the toys and resources are accessible and for children to help themselves to which promotes their independence. Children's work is displayed which promotes a sense of belonging. Children have sufficient space to meet their needs. There is sufficient space for floor play in the play room as well as a table and chairs for activities. There is a larger space for floor play in the lounge as well as comfy chairs for rest and quiet. Children are involved in tidying up and caring for their toys and as a result they develop a sense of ownership and independence.

Children play safely as the childminder has undertaken appropriate safety measures. There is a guard around the heater in the playroom and a stairgate to restrict access to upstairs. The childminder takes responsibility for checking the premises are safe for children to use before they arrive by carrying out a visual check. She is very proactive in assessing the safety of the environment whilst children play and regularly moves toys if she identifies they are a tripping hazard. The childminder uses a form that has been devised by her co-minder to gather information on who can collect the children, to ensure their safety. She also follows clear written procedures for children who are uncollected or lost.

Children's safety is promoted when they are outside. The garden is safe because it is fully enclosed with a large lawn area with hard standing at the side for sit-and-ride toys. The childminder effectively promotes children's safety when she takes them on outings. She usually takes the children out with her co-minder so there is a higher adult to child ratio, particularly when taking the children swimming. She ensures that children hold her hands and uses reins for younger children until she is confident they are responsible to walk with her. Children are developing an understanding of how to keep themselves safe. The childminder talks to them about road safety when they are out and about.

Children's welfare is effectively promoted with regards to child protection. The childminder demonstrates an understanding of the different types of abuse and possible signs and symptoms. She knows the procedures for reporting and is clear what procedure she would follow if there was an allegation against a household member. She follows a clear written statement which was devised by her co-minder, which she also shares with parents at the time of placement.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle and become happy in the setting. Both children are very comfortable with the childminder. One child comes to sit on her knee when he is tired. Older children frequently talk to her about her family and things she has done. The childminder is skilled at ensuring children are comfortable, even when they make a mistake, for example, a child spills some flour he is weighing, she laughs and says 'I think that went a bit wrong'.

Children's self-esteem is well promoted. The childminder regularly praises the children, for example, she says 'good girl' when a child tells her she has washed her hands.

Children are involved in a varied range of activities and play opportunities, which support their development and learning. A flexible daily routine has been devised by the childminder and her co-minder. It includes free play interspersed with an outing every day, for both younger and after school children. This effectively promotes children's social skills. Children also enjoy a range of adult-led activities such as painting and baking. The childminder delivers a range of craft and creative activities that have been devised by her co-minder, to promote children's imaginative and creative skills. She is experienced in child development and uses this knowledge to ensure children make sufficient progress. For example, she creates a book of photographs to encourage speech development in younger children.

Effective interaction helps children learn and progress. The childminder talks to children as she takes them out and about during term time and when they are playing. Children relate well to the childminder, her co-minder and other children present. They interact with other children when they play various games. The childminder shows interest in the children and engages them in conversation. She talks to them about their home and family life which makes them feel valued and included.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met well. The childminder gathers additional information from parents which is recorded at the time of placement, for example, likes and dislikes, needs. She is aware that younger or less able children need more support and how she would do this, for example, helping a younger child when weighing ingredients.

Children have opportunities to get out and about in the local community through visits to the library, the park and a local swimming pool.

Children become aware of wider society through an appropriate range of resources, discussion and the celebration of festivals. The childminder looks at a range of different festivals with the children including Diwali, Chinese New Year and Christmas.

Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities receive a good level of support and have their individual needs met. The childminder demonstrates sound awareness of the issues. She uses a statement to explain to parents her and her co-minder's commitment to caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Children's behaviour is well managed. The childminder has a sound understanding of methods to manage inappropriate behaviour such as distraction and explanation with older children. She is clear that if children are occupied and amused they are less likely to behave inappropriately. She would talk to parents if inappropriate behaviour was persistent, would be sensitive and not repeat things unnecessarily in front of a child. The childminder is very calm and friendly in her interaction with the children. She gives them lots of praise and encouragement whilst they play. As a result children play well together, they share the toys and resources and can play without adult intervention for long periods of time. The childminder follows a clear behaviour management statement which was devised by her co-minder.

Children receive consistent and appropriate care. There is a contract and record form for each child along with additional permissions such as sun cream, photographs and handling pets. Parents receive a detailed information brochure about the childminding service. They sign to confirm they have received the clear and detailed policies and procedures. There is a suitable complaints procedure in place which is shared with parents. The childminder feeds back to parents each day about what children have been doing.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by adults who are vetted, promoting their safety. The childminder is aware of her responsibilities to notify the regulator of any changes to her circumstances and to ensure that all adults are checked to ensure they are suitable to be in contact with children.

Children are well protected and cared for by the childminder who has many years of experience of working with children. She demonstrates a commitment to improve her knowledge and skills to positively impact on the children she minds. Since the last inspection she has attended training in Activities for the under eights, a Childminder Resource Workshop, 'Birth to three matters', a Make Chatter Matter Workshop and first aid. This positively impacts on the care provided for children.

Children receive a good level of support to positively support their care, learning and play and the adult to child ratio supports this. The childminder regularly works with a co-minder. They have good communication between them so that children receive a good level of attention and tasks are shared so that they can spend the maximum time with the children.

Policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and achievement. The childminder maintains an organised folder of contracts and permission forms,

which are completed by parents at the time of placement. She works with a range of clear policies and procedures.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to extend her knowledge, information and activities regarding different festivals and celebrations including appropriate snacks and meals. She provides appropriate resources and activities to help children to learn about the wider world. She uses an informative folder of festivals to help children learn about different religions and cultures.

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

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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 vehicle insurance covers business use

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