

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY254405
Inspection date	04 September 2007
Inspector	Kate Bryan
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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged three and nine years in Leicester City. Within the home children have access to the hall, lounge, kitchen and family bathroom on the first floor. The childminder is registered for three children and currently has one child on roll, the childminder also looks after children over eight years of age. No children were present during the inspection.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local carer and toddler group and takes children to the park. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of how she would maintain children's health. Good hygiene routines are described, such as hand washing before and after food. The childminder explains to children why they wash their hands so they develop a suitable

understanding of maintaining their own health. She explains how she would reduce cross-contamination appropriately by supplying liquid soap and a clean towel daily for children to use. The childminder talks about how she would maintain the health of children if they become ill by contacting their parents to collect them. Through discussion the childminder shows how she meets young children's needs for rest and sleep appropriately by maintaining their routines. These are discussed and agreed with parents. She has ensured that most relevant details and consents are in place regarding children's medical needs so their health is promoted. However, parents have not signed to acknowledge medication given to children which may compromise their health.

Through discussion the childminder shows a sound understanding of meeting children's dietary needs. She provides drinks of water, which the children can access themselves, and no added sugar juices. She also offers healthy snacks of fruit and vegetables and discussions about these gives children an awareness of healthy eating.

The childminder describes how children have access to a limited range of equipment such as hula hoops, skipping and ball play indoors, and a daily walk to the school. The garden is also not in use and the park is not used regularly which means children have limited opportunities to benefit from exercise or from challenges which develop their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The environment is clean and warm and provides an appropriate and safe environment for children. For example the childminder describes how she is always in the kitchen with younger children to ensure they are suitably protected. A good range of toys are available which are stored in the lounge at children's level so they have easy access to them. Older children are able to ask for what they would like to play with which promotes their choice and independence appropriately.

The childminder demonstrates how she keeps her home safe by the measures she has put into place to achieve this. For example, stair gates and socket covers are in place and the fire is not used when children are present. She also ensures that small equipment is not accessible to younger children. A suitable range of fire prevention and detection measures are in place, for example smoke detectors and a fire blanket. However, an emergency escape plan has not been practised which means safety may be compromised. The childminder has a suitable understanding of how to support children in learning about safety within the home. For example by explaining that children may fall over toys if they leave them on the floor.

The childminder demonstrates by discussion that she has a satisfactory awareness of signs of abuse. She also has the appropriate contact numbers to report any concerns. However, she is unclear about the correct reporting procedures which means children's safety may be compromised.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder describes a suitable variety of activities that she provides for children. These include arts and crafts, play dough, reading, small world play, role play and interactive games such as nursery rhymes with actions. Older children make choices about their activities from a range which includes homework, reading and watching television. The childminder builds in

time for children to relax after school as she is aware of their energy levels at the end of the day. Through discussion the childminder demonstrates an understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and uses this appropriately to promote children's learning. For example by using water play and bottles children explore how water behaves in containers. She discusses how she makes use of some local facilities to offer children a suitable range of experiences and opportunities to mix with other children. For example visiting local carer and toddler groups, and using the park and shops. The childminder describes how children have access to a limited range of equipment such as hula hoops, skipping and ball play indoors, and a daily walk to the school. The garden is also not in use and the park is not used regularly which means children have limited opportunities to benefit from exercise or from challenges which develop their physical skills.

The childminder explains how she promotes children's language development by talking to them and asking them questions to promote their thinking. This is achieved as she points to objects and encourages them to say new words. The childminder talks about how she makes children feel welcome and secure in the home by cuddling them and putting them on her knee as she reads to them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Through discussion the childminder evidences that she has a sound understanding of how to manage behaviour in an age-appropriate way. She discusses how younger children would be distracted whilst older children receive 'time out'. This allows them the opportunity to think about how they have behaved. She describes how she uses sensible rules in the home such as sharing which all children respond to. Children's good behaviour is rewarded by praise so they know they have been acknowledged appropriately.

Through discussion the childminder demonstrates that she has a suitable understanding of equal opportunities. This is achieved by ensuring that all children respect each other and learn about other cultures and beliefs. She describes how she actively supports this by acknowledging a range of festivals and helping children to make Rangoli patterns and decorate a Christmas Tree. The childminder explains how children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities would have the opportunity to be included in all activities so they feel valued.

The childminder talks about how she works closely with parents to ensure children's individual needs are suitably met. She talks to parents daily about their child's day, sharing details of their food, rests and activities. She also explains about children's moods for example if they have been happy or sad so they receive consistency of care when they go home. The childminder shows a sound understanding of maintaining professional relationships with parents by discussing issues and remaining calm.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder explains how she organises her home to ensure that children are suitably monitored at all times. This means that in practice all activities take place in the lounge where they are always within sight or sound of her. Children's safety would also be enhanced as the childminder does not leave children with people who have not had a Criminal Records Bureau check.

The childminder has completed an Introduction to Childminding Practice course, a first aid course, a food hygiene course, a sounds workshop and has attended a 'Birth to three matters' framework conference. This demonstrates her commitment to complying with the National Standards and providing a suitable service to children. Most records are in place to promote children's welfare, care and learning appropriately and these are kept safe and accessible because the childminder is aware of maintaining confidentiality.

The childminder makes sure that she discusses all details of her service with parents when they visit. She also completes contracts with them so they know how their child is cared for. Overall, evidence suggests that the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to ensure accident and medication records are completed accurately and are up-to-date, improve fire safety precautions by maintaining smoke alarms in working order on both levels of the house and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. All records are now in place to ensure children's safety is maintained. Working fire detectors are also in place on both floors of the home which means children are suitably protected from the risks of fire.

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):

- promote more opportunities for outdoor play and access to equipment which promotes children's physical skills
- make sure parents sign to acknowledge medication given to children
- make sure the emergency escape plan is practised.

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