

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	226086
Inspection date	21 January 2008
Inspector	Sarah Measures
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 1992. She lives with her adult son in the Market Harborough area of Leicestershire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house, except for the utility room, is used for childminding. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She occasionally attends a local parent and toddler group. The childminder has two dogs, three rabbits and an aviary of birds.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for nine children, three of whom are pre-school age. All children attend on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic minding home. They learn simple good hygiene routines as they are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The childminder promotes their good health by following suitable hygiene procedures. For example, she washes children faces after lunch, ensures they can access tissues and cleans the

high chair after it has been used. The childminder is not fully aware of emergency action that may be necessary in order to protect children with specific medical conditions.

Children are appropriately protected in the event of an accident or emergency because the childminder keeps a record of accidents that parents sign and because parental consents include written permission for the childminder to seek any necessary emergency medical advice. The childminder promotes children's welfare appropriately by recording medications she administers to children, but does not fully promote their health by ensuring she obtains written consent to give the medicines. Children benefit from regular outdoor exercise as they walk to local schools and pre-schools daily. The childminder works with parents to help ensure children enjoy healthy, balanced meals. The childminder provides nutritious, home cooked meals for children if parents wish to take advantage of this.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure setting. The childminder organises space, equipment and toys to ensure children's needs are met and to ensure they feel welcome. Children have easy and free access to a range of interesting and fun toys, books and games. Areas used by the children have been suitably risk assessed in order to ensure their safety. A range of safe and suitable equipment is available to meet the needs of the younger children. Children's safety in the event of a fire is not fully promoted because the childminder has not practised an emergency escape plan. Children are safeguarded because the childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of child protection issues and keeps local referral contacts to hand to use if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are clearly at home within the setting. They chat happily as they play and have warm relationships with the childminder. This is demonstrated as they approach her readily for support and comfort. The needs of very young children are met because the childminder talks to them about what is going on and offers suitable toys to encourage them to explore and investigate. The childminder interacts positively with the children giving them ideas to develop their play and helping them to pronounce difficult words such as 'hippopotamus'. Children benefit from the social opportunities within the group as they learn to share and play together co-operatively. They learn from each other as they engage in suitable imaginative play and mathematical games. Children play with toys that offer them appropriate learning opportunities as they play and have fun.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a sound sense of belonging because they are valued as individuals. Equality of opportunity for boys and girls is clearly promoted because all children enjoy playing with a variety of toys. Children learn to appreciate and value those that are different from themselves because some suitable resources that represent diversity are included within their play environment. There are no children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in attendance at present, however, the childminder has relevant experience that would help her to care for any children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities .

Children learn considerate behaviours because the childminder provides them with a good role model. Children are well mannered and share ideas and toys as they play together. The childminder makes effective use of distraction methods in order to prevent unwanted behaviour. She helps children to develop an appropriate sense of self-discipline as she discusses the consequences of their actions with them to reflect upon. The childminder has regular communications with parents in order to ensure they are kept up-to-date with children's routines and significant issues affecting their care. Appropriate systems are available to record any complaints made by parents, however, children are not fully protected because written agreements with parents do not include business arrangements.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Policies and procedure generally promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and their ability to make a positive contribution. The childminder offers children experienced care as she has been registered for many years and has cared for many different children during this time. Children are protected in the event of an accident because the childminder has completed relevant training in first aid. The premises are organised to meet children's needs and to ensure they feel welcome. Well established routines help children to feel secure. Satisfactory systems are in place to keep important records on the children in order to ensure their health and safety. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to; complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children; keep a written record, signed by parents, of accidents and medicines given to children; request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment; improve knowledge of and develop systems for the recording of complaints and make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed; develop knowledge of safeguarding children procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines, and, record children's hours of attendance on a daily basis and ensure that records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times. The childminder has completed appropriate first aid training and has developed systems to record accidents and the administration of any medication given to children. Children's records now include written consent to seek any necessary emergency medical advice and information is available regarding procedures for making a complaint. The childminder has taken appropriate action to obtain information to help her to update her knowledge of safeguarding children issues and referral procedures and documentation now includes a record of children's daily attendance and is available for inspection purposes. These steps help to promote the welfare of the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints that have required the provider or Ofsted 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 upon request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made by parents.

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 full information from parents regarding any medical conditions and emergency action that may be necessary
- obtain written consent to administer any medications to children
- make sure that an emergency escape plan is practised
- improve information recorded regarding business arrangement within the written agreements with parents.

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