

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	252641
Inspection date	03 March 2008
Inspector	Patricia King
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 outstanding. 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 1991. She lives with her husband and two adult children in Mansfield Woodhouse which is in Nottinghamshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and currently has 12 children on roll. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Mansfield childminder's support group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health is positively promoted as the childminder has excellent systems and practices to maintain a high standard of hygiene and care in her home. The home is scrupulously clean and robust policies, procedures and daily routines ensure a healthy environment is maintained.

All children have their own washing and personal care items such as towels and toothbrushes and activities such as learning songs and rhymes that accompany personal care routines, secure the children's understanding of the importance of using these properly and regularly. Children are effectively protected from cross-infection and illness by the childminder's detailed information to parents that children will not be minded when infectious. They are further protected from health risks because the childminder has effective systems in place, for example, to safeguard children from exposure to the sun. Comprehensive procedures ensure that any accidents children have are managed appropriately as the childminder has sound knowledge of first aid, available first aid equipment and clear recording systems. She has established robust procedures and records to take appropriate action in the event of an accident, to seek emergency attention and administer any necessary medication. A clear written procedure for looking after sick children ensures that their health and emotional well-being are given top priority. Therefore, parents are contacted to collect any child who may become ill and the childminder ensures the child is well cared for until the parent arrives.

The childminder is careful to establish children's individual dietary requirements and works closely with their parents to ensure that a healthy balanced diet is provided for each child. An excellent variety of nourishing meals is offered by the childminder, which includes daily portions of fresh fruit and vegetables and healthy drinks are readily accessible for children to have when they require. Meals and snacks are eaten at the table to promote social skills and encourage good eating habits. Children develop a considerable awareness of healthy eating through the imaginative use of activities such as growing and harvesting their own fruit and vegetables in the childminder's garden. They talk enthusiastically about the crops they have grown and turned into tasty dishes. For example, the apple and blackberry crumble is remembered with relish.

Children benefit significantly from daily play in the garden where the childminder has created a inviting outdoor play area with an excellent range of outdoor play equipment to promote their physical skills. They use outdoor equipment to balance, climb, ride on bikes and cars, play with balls and outdoor games and, weather permitting, activities such as painting and role play are available in the fresh air. Children are taken to the local parks and places of interest to explore and learn about the environment. For example, they took part in the Community Friendly Spaces project building their own den in the Sherwood Pine Forest. This means that the childminder uses the outdoor environment effectively to promote the health and physical development of children.

Children relax and sleep according to their needs because the childminder plans her home and routines effectively to offer opportunities for rest and quieter times, for example, babies may sleep in travel cots set up in a quiet area such as the lounge. The childminder is careful to ensure that individual sleeping routines are maintained and is vigilant to supervise sleeping babies at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children's safety is given top priority and the childminder successfully promotes this by implementing robust safety procedures such as daily risk assessments within her home and through risk assessments of outings and activities. She is vigilant about creating a safe environment, both indoors and outdoors. Detailed written procedures include the action to take in the event of a child being lost or uncollected. The childminder ensures that children are only collected by their parents or named adults by prior written arrangements and children are never left alone with other adults. Children are developing careful regard for their own

safety and the safety of others, for example, they are learning about the dangers of running indoors, jumping and climbing on furniture and behave safely in the home. Their confidence and understanding of dangers outside the home is secured by activities that help them to learn how to keep safe and protect themselves. For example, they practise the green cross code when out walking and the childminder uses spontaneous opportunities such as playing with the cars and road layout, to act out road safety routines.

Children are warmly welcomed into the childminder's home which is well maintained and thoughtfully arranged to provide areas for quiet, active and creative activities. Children feel settled and confident to make choices from a wide range of high quality equipment and resources arranged to allow children to access these independently and safely, for example, toys and activities are accessible within easy reach and child-sized furniture promotes independence and choice.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's clear understanding of child protection issues in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance and how to take any action required to protect children. She has attended various child protection training events and has established a clear written policy to ensure parents are fully informed of her responsibility to protect children from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has a comprehensive understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and the Foundation Stage of learning. This means children are provided with an informed and extensive range of activities which promotes their play and learning in the home and on well-planned outings into their local community and surrounding area. For example, they have visited Nottingham Castle, a power station, a train station, museums and regularly travel to events organised by childminders in other parts of the county. Children have made photo albums and diaries of their adventures which contain illustrated and written records of what they have seen and done. Their enjoyment at exploring the Thoresby Maze, fascination with the Nottingham Eye and the encounter with the Mayor of Nottingham are well documented. Children are interested and encouraged to ask questions, for example, they noticed that street furniture was wrapped in special foil and found out this was in readiness for the evenings light display. The childminder uses community resources effectively to support and extend children's learning and provide social opportunities with their peers. For example, they visit the local childminder's support group and Sure Start centre where the childminder has trained to use the sensory room.

The substantial range of quality toys and resources is used imaginatively and effectively to provide inspiring opportunities for children to develop and learn in the childminder's care. Excellent indoor and outdoor activities provide appropriate levels of challenge to build confidence and self-esteem. Children are highly motivated and make use of interesting and appealing activities to learn and extend their knowledge. For example, they created a colourful display to celebrate Chinese New Year with items collected by the childminder, the children and their families. They visited a Chinese supermarket to purchase noodles and rice which they cooked and ate with chopsticks. The childminder is adept at using activities to promote children's learning in different ways and uses spontaneous opportunities to promote children's learning. For example, as the children rolled, moulded and cut the dough they talked of the shapes they used and enthusiastically joined in singing songs associated with the different shapes. She supports their interest and encourages them to experiment, for example, when they tried to

use scissors to cut the dough, she provided suitable scissors for them to use and asked questions about why this was successful and what it felt like when the scissors went through the dough.

The childminder observes and records children's progress and achievements using appropriate 'Birth to three matters' documents and explains how this information will be used to establish the Early Years Foundation Stage records. She takes great care to find out what children can do and establishes all individual details of the children's needs, their likes and dislikes. This means she builds positive relationships with the children, knows them well and is able to use favourite activities and comforts to calm and soothe them when tired or unsettled. Children develop confidence and self-esteem and respond positively to the childminder's consistent use of praise and encouragement. They thoroughly benefit from her knowledge, experience and commitment to providing an environment where they are highly valued as individuals which means they make positive progress in their overall development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder provides an excellent range of toys, resources and books that reflect culture, gender, race and religion that are accessible to all children. Children are learning about the wider world and the lives of others as they find out about life and cultural practices in other countries, for example, looking at lifestyles in the countries competing in the Olympics and celebrating significant occasions such as Chinese new year and Diwali. Children enjoy a daily routine which includes visits to other childcare groups and outings into the local community and county. This means they are effectively learning about their local community, the world around them and their place in it. The childminder has established a policy to inform parents how she will provide for children's learning difficulties and/or disabilities and she shows good understanding of how to manage the situation positively when recognising any such individual needs.

The childminder has created a comprehensive welcome pack for parents to inform of her services and how she works in partnership with parents to promote children's learning and development in her care. An excellent, close working partnership means that parents are well informed about their child's progress as the childminder provides a daily record of the children's routines such as food and drink intake, sleep patterns and nappy changes. Children proudly take home work they have created so that parents can share in their achievements. The childminder actively seeks parent's evaluation of her services and parents are enthusiastic in their written commendations for her practice. The childminder is fully prepared to consider any complaints and has established a recording and monitoring system for this purpose.

Children's behaviour is good because they respond positively to the childminder's consistent support through praise and encouragement. They have agreed simple rules for harmony and safe behaviour that reflect their ages and developmental stages. This means that they are learning to behave appropriately and respond positively to the childminder's consistent guidance and reassurance. For example, they routinely say 'please' and 'thank you' and have a careful regard for the safety and welfare of others. The childminder skilfully promotes children's confidence and self-esteem by ensuring that they recognise and value their differences, which promotes a sharing and caring environment.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children and parents receive a high quality childcare service because of the childminder's unquestionable commitment to her role. She is self-motivated and proactive in seeking out further training and materials to update her knowledge. She has appropriate early years qualifications, has attended a wealth of relevant training and actively seeks further opportunities to inform and develop her childminding practice, for example, learning British Sign Language and implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children's welfare and safety is positively promoted by the comprehensive set of policies, guidelines and information accessible to parents. These ensure that documents and records necessary for the efficient and safe management of the provision are maintained.

The childminder has given careful consideration to ensure that her home and resources are organised safely and effectively and inspired activities provide children with interesting and exciting experiences to broaden their overall development. This means children feel settled and secure within the childminder's home confidently developing their self-esteem and sense of belonging. Parents are kept well informed and included in the care of their children by daily discussion and written records of their development which means they can contribute to their child's continued development. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was not given any recommendations or actions to improve.

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 have procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and to keep a record of complaints and their outcome.

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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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