

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY273838
Inspection date	11 October 2007
Inspector	Kristin Hatherly
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 2004. She lives in a terraced house in Wellingborough with her five children aged 18, 15, 13, seven and two years. The whole of downstairs is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding five children for various sessions. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have a pet cat and one guinea pig.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, well-maintained home. They learn the importance of good hygiene practices and personal care in promoting their health. They wash their hands at appropriate times such as before snacks, which contributes to their well-being. Although the childminder's first aid certificate is out-of-date, she is attending a course in October to bring

it up-to-date. Generally, all consents from parents are in place except for permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to provide nutritious snacks and meals that contribute to their good health. This is supported through the childminder's attendance at a workshop on "Healthy Eating for Life". The individual dietary needs and requirements of children are met through the recording of information gained from parents. However, although younger children have beakers of water at all times, older children do not always have access to fresh drinking water to ensure that they are well hydrated and comfortable.

Children's good health and physical well-being is promoted as they regularly take part in activities in the fresh air that promote their growth and development. They enjoy playing in the secure garden on a variety of outdoor toys such as a climbing frame, a slide, bikes and a play house. They also go to the local park and play on the large equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment where space and equipment are used well. Children enjoy a wide range of activities and resources appropriate to their age and development such as baby toys, construction, dressing up, games, puzzles and craft. Suitable furniture and equipment ensure that children are comfortable and that they can play and eat together.

Children are kept safe because the childminder understands the need to supervise children at all times. Safety measures are in place to minimise hazards such as smoke alarms in working order, a fire blanket and cleaning products and medicines are kept out of reach of children. There is an emergency evacuation plan and children take part in regular fire drills.

Children are protected and their welfare promoted because the childminder has knowledge of child protection issues and is attending training in Safeguarding Children. The required procedures and documents are in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and happy in the childminder's care and speak confidently with the childminder and to other adults. They enjoy a varied range of indoor and outdoor activities and resources which meets their individual needs well and enable children to progress appropriately. For example, on the day of inspection they experimented with shaving foam, played with play dough and engaged in a number recognition activities. Children confidently play and show an interest in activities which is further developed by the childminder's good interaction with the children as she engages and takes an active part in their play. Children are helped to progress through the childminder's expert questioning and clear interest in what they are doing. They played with the play dough discussing shapes they were making and were encouraged to count spontaneously during activities. Children are able to choose between a variety of toys and games and also confidently ask for a specific toy or activity. They also enjoy a variety of outings to museums and country parks.

Children enjoy physical exercise in a secure garden as they play on a variety of outside toys such as ride on and push along toys. They are encouraged to develop their interests as they go on nature trails and do leaf rubbings and visit museums and rural centres.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and receive regular praise and encouragement which promotes their confidence and self-esteem. Their needs are met well as they follow a consistent routine. Children learn the difference between right and wrong because the childminder manages their behaviour positively and consistently and has recently attended Protective Behaviour training. Children respond well to clear guidelines and behave well.

Children are able to develop awareness of equality as they play with a range of resources reflecting diversity such as puzzles and use flesh coloured pencils. They are provided with opportunities to fully appreciate each other's similarities and differences and develop a positive view of the wider world.

The childminder has a clear understanding of her obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act and has attended a workshop on "Adapting Resources to Include all Children". She is confident to care for and support children with identified needs.

Children's individual needs are successfully met because the childminder has developed friendly and professional relationships with parents. Secure systems are in place to establish and exchange information such as a comprehensive portfolio. Information is shared at each session through verbal feedback as well as a daily journal giving information about the children's day. These practices ensure that children's care, welfare and development are effectively promoted.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and settled in a well-organised home enabling them to confidently initiate and extend their play. Space and resources are organised to meet the needs of the children and consistent adult support is given. The childminder has completed the National Childminding Association "Quality First Level 2" and the "Birth to three matters" training. This enables a range of activities to be provided with appropriate levels of adult support and also allows children to make choices about their play. As a result, children feel secure and confident.

Children's well-being is safeguarded because, generally, the required documentation such as daily register, medication and accident records are in place and well organised, which ensures the efficient and safe management of the provision. This further promotes children's care and learning. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure arrangements for the care of sick children are discussed with parents. She now discusses arrangements with parents at the start of her childminding contract with them which includes not caring for children with tummy upsets for 24 hours thus reducing the risk of infection and continuing to ensure that children's health is promoted.

The childminder was also asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has attended a workshop "Adapting Resources to Include all Children" and has purchased several books, puzzles and flesh coloured crayons to depict diversity. She also now

cooks food from other countries and celebrates a variety of festivals with the children which ensures that children are developing an awareness of equal opportunity issues.

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):

- ensure children have access to fresh drinking water at all times
- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- develop knowledge and understanding of significant changes or events to be notified to Ofsted.

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