

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY291481
Inspection date	09 January 2008
Inspector	Susan Andrews
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 with her partner and two children, aged 15 months and four years of age, in the New Parks area of Leicester City. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childcare purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding one child under five years and four children aged between five and 11 years before and after school.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA), and holds a level 3 childcare qualification. Schools, parks, shops and places of interest are within easy walking or driving distance. The childminder has experience of providing care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children take part in a range of indoor and outdoor play opportunities that develop their physical skills. They move to music, participate in activities that encourage their development and coordination by the use of crayons, chalks and when handling small toys, puzzles and books. They benefit from playing and taking fresh air in the garden and children exercise as they walk to and from school. Children play imaginatively with toys and outdoor equipment so they learn to run, jump, climb, roll and balance.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home where good hygiene practices are maintained. For example, toys are regularly cleansed, antibacterial sprays are used on kitchen and bathroom surfaces. Children are beginning to understand about their own personal hygiene during daily routines. For example, hand washing after using the toilet, craft activities and before mealtimes. However, there is a potential risk of cross-infection as children share towels in the bathroom. Children are learning the importance of using sun hats and creams when playing out of doors and the childminder is mindful to arrange outdoor play when there is sufficient shade in the garden. Therefore, children are protected from the sun's harmful rays. Appropriate arrangements are made for children to rest when they are tired and care is organised so that the childminder engages children in active, quiet and restful activities according to their individual needs.

A range of well thought out procedures are in place to ensure children's health and well-being is promoted. For example, regarding health and safety issues and the administration of medication. An appropriately equipped first aid kit is available in the home and another is taken on walks and outings, the contents of which are checked regularly and replaced as necessary. The childminder holds a current first aid qualification so she is able to respond positively, should a child become unwell or have an accident whilst in her care.

Children recognise when they are thirsty and are able to access their drinks of water, fruit juice or milk at all times. Children are encouraged to take additional drinks after physical exercise and in hot weather, therefore, they remain well hydrated. They are developing an awareness of healthy eating and children are encouraged to choose from healthy snack options such as fresh fruit and raw carrot sticks. The childminder consults parents to ensure children's cultural, religious, medical and dietary needs are met. This includes information regarding allergies and food preferences which are also obtained from parents at the time their child is placed in her care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe and are well cared for in suitable and welcoming surroundings, where risks are identified and minimised. Children move freely and independently under the careful supervision of the childminder and are always within her sight or hearing. Children cannot leave the premises unsupervised as doors are kept locked with the key located appropriately in case of fire evacuation. Security systems are in place to ensure only authorised persons may collect children, therefore, children's welfare is safeguarded.

Children play safely in areas of the home that are designated for childcare purposes. They use a good range of toys and equipment that are checked regularly to meet appropriate safety regulations. They choose their activities independently and access equipment safely. Stairs are protected, electrical socket covers are in place and hazardous items, for example, cleaning materials are stored in locked cupboards. Consequently, children stay safe and free from harm.

The childminder has attended additional child protection training to develop her skills and has a good understanding of the issues and appropriate knowledge of reporting procedures. She recognises the signs and symptoms of abuse and is aware of her duty to protect children in her care. She has a written child protection policy which she makes readily available to parents. Therefore, children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have easy access to a good range of activities and play opportunities, that are varied, flexible and of real interest to the under fives and the school aged children. These activities invite children to extend their reasoning and curiosity, as they use art materials, for example chalks. The childminder has an awareness of younger children's needs and the principles of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. She understands the need to plan for their stages of development and individual learning needs.

Children develop their confidence and self-esteem as they relate well to adults, visitors and each other. They are secure and content receiving cuddles and affection as well as having time to play freely, develop their skills, and explore toys and activities independently. Children experience a warm, caring relationship with the childminder who engages them in lively conversation, listens intently to them and shows a real interest in what they say and do. This provides reassurance to the children and supports their relationship. Consequently, children are happy, secure, they learn and have fun.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into the home and are valued as individuals. The childminder has a real commitment to inclusion and equality of opportunity. She encourages non-stereotypical play opportunities for all children. However, children's awareness of the wider world and diversity are not well promoted. This is because activities that reflect positive images of culture and disability are not fully developed.

Children are encouraged to take turns, be polite, show respect and care for the needs of others. Children's behaviour is managed effectively, based on praise and encouragement. The childminder is a good role model, always saying 'please' and 'thank you' to the children and expecting them to do the same in return. She is consistent and applies sensible house rules, so the children know what is expected of them and how their behaviour affects others. They are praised for their efforts and cooperation. Children are positively encouraged to make independent choices regarding their play activities, to play harmoniously with others, take turns and to share their toys. Consequently, this promotes children's confidence and their self-esteem is enhanced.

Children receive good levels of continuity of care because the childminder has developed a positive relationship with parents. The childminder shares information about her policies and

procedures and completes the relevant written documentation at the time a child is placed in her care. In addition, she exchanges information verbally on a daily basis, to keep parents well informed and to regularly ensure that children's needs are met. This provides a sound basis for parents to become involved and make informed decisions about their childcare arrangements.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and comfortable environment. As a result, children have opportunities to make choices and engage in a range of play and learning activities both indoors and outside. This enables children to be imaginative, develop their curiosity, grow in confidence, learn and have fun.

Children benefit from the childminder's enthusiasm, good level of commitment and business like approach to her childcare service. The childminder holds an NVQ level 3 childcare qualification, a current first aid certificate and embraces further training opportunities. Children's care and welfare is well supported by the childminder's range of written documentation. These are shared with parents to ensure that they are aware of the policies and procedures that she has in place. Consequently, children receive continuity of care and their welfare is safeguarded.

Children receive good care and the childminder provides a reliable and supportive service to parents. The childminder has a clear knowledge of her duty to meet the National Standards and she takes seriously her childminding responsibilities. She manages her childminding affairs effectively. Consequently the care, protection and developmental needs of children are fostered.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and reporting procedures, devise and implement a sick children's policy, include sufficient detail regarding accidents to children devise and practise an emergency escape plan. She also agreed to ensure children's activities and resources promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

The childminder has taken positive steps to address most of these issues, therefore, children's welfare has been enhanced. She has attended a child protection training course, devised a sick children's policy and an emergency escape plan which is practised with the children. She keeps appropriate records relating accidents using National Childminding Association documentation. The childminder has started to increase resources and provide activities that promote diversity, however, this is in the process of ongoing development.

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):

- minimise the risk of cross-infection with regard to hand drying facilities, for example, by providing children with individual or disposable towels and flannels
- continue to develop the range of activities and resources to promote diversity and enhance children's awareness of the wider world.

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