



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY280460
Inspection date	17 January 2006
Inspector	Sarah Jane Rhodes

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 2004. She lives with her husband and child aged 16 years in Litchfield, Staffordshire. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding 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 is currently minding two children under five all day and four children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a hamster.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home. They learn the importance of good personal hygiene, for example, hand washing before meals or covering their mouth when coughing. However the use of a communal towel means that they are exposed to the risk of cross infection when drying their hands. The childminder does have a written sickness policy that excludes children who are infectious, ensuring children are protected from this avenue of cross infection. The children benefit from toys that are kept clean through systematic cleaning. The childminder ensures that she supervises the children closely when they are handling the family hamster, this ensures the children are protected and can play safely. Children's medical needs both in a minor emergency and with regard to ongoing medication are met through the use of accident and medication procedures that are clear and understood by the childminder. However she does not have parents written permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment, which would hamper the treatment of more major medical emergencies.

The childminder works in partnership with parents to meet the children's individual dietary needs. She provides a healthy and nutritious diet and encourages all children to make healthy choices. The children have access to drinks throughout the day ensuring they are not left thirsty. The childminder recognises when the children need a rest or meal, the children are able to eat or rest according to their individual needs.

The children enjoy activities which contribute to their good health. They increase their physical control through daily routines and visits to local play parks. This helps them develop their coordination and physical strength.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a safe and secure environment, hazards are identified and minimised. The home is well maintained and organised in a child friendly way. This means the children can move around safely and independently in an environment that encourages play and learning. The children use two rooms for the majority of their play, these are connected by a hallway, stair gates restrict children's access to the stairs and kitchen which means they can move freely between the areas. They have ample room to crawl, play and learn to stand safely and the childminder can easily supervise them. The outside area is fenced and gated. The childminder supervises the children when outside to enable them to play safely. She ensures children are aware of safety rules on the walk to school, but does not practise her emergency evacuation procedure with the children to ensure they have a full understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

A wide range of safe, appropriate toys, suitable for the age range attending is readily accessible in the playroom for the children to select from. The childminder has all

required documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she has a current first aid certificate and appropriate insurance for the use of the car. The childminder has a secure knowledge of child protection procedures in line with the latest government guidelines, this ensures children are protected from harm or neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are very settled, confident and happy. They relate well to the childminder, their play and learning is actively extended by the childminders conversations with them and her appropriate questioning. Children enjoy lots of general verbal communication and praise. All this helps to build their self-esteem and confidence to learn new skills. Children become increasingly independent as they learn to use the toilet and to feed themselves.

The childminder provides a very broad range of stimulating activities both inside and outside the home for the children. The children's access to the playroom toys allows them high levels of control over their play and learning. The childminder informally assesses the children's interests and physical needs, for example, providing more active play in the mornings when children are more alert, selecting music and movement activities that the children enjoy, to help promote language and mathematical development. The children are well occupied and concentrate for good periods of time, they show good skill levels for their age in a number of activities. On the day of inspection they played with the train set, kitchen, colouring as well as the music and movement session. The childminder is not currently using the, 'Birth to three matters' framework and this would help to further develop the childminder's planning of the next steps in children's play and learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are seen as individuals, their unique needs are met as they follow their own daily routines as discussed with their parents. Children have access to all age appropriate activities regardless of gender. Only limited resources that reflect positive images of culture and gender are available and none of disability, no specific activities are provided that encourage children to have positive attitudes and an awareness of diversity and the wider world. This limits the childminders ability to increase children's awareness of these issues. The childminder has experience of caring for children with special needs. She has a strong understanding of the need to adapt activities to ensure inclusion and work with parents and other professionals to ensure each child has appropriate care and activities.

Children behave well for their age and stage of development. The childminder manages the children's behaviour in a very positive way, praising the children, using distraction and keeping them well occupied. They respond positively to the childminders boundaries. They play along side one another, developing positive

relationships. Children's self-esteem is boosted by praise and encouragement when they achieve different tasks, for example, feeding themselves.

A positive relationship with parents is promoted, with written information about the childminding service filed and shown to parents along with some written information they can take away. Most required written consents are obtained from parents. Information about how children have been during the day is passed on to parents verbally or in daily diaries. Parents are encouraged to share any information that they think will help the childminder when working with their child. This enables the childminder and parents to work together to meet the needs of the children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are comfortable and feel secure in a child friendly, well organised environment. This means they are confident and able to initiate their own play and are well occupied.

Training is seen by the childminder as an important way of developing her knowledge and skills on childcare issues. She has undertaken the 'Introduction to Childminding Practice', first aid and child protection courses. These courses broaden the childminders knowledge and contribute to the quality of care provided.

Policies and procedures are in place and used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. The policies and procedures are organised accessibly to be shared with parents. This provides continuity in the children's care. Most required parental consents are in place. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- ensure parents written permission is obtained to seek emergency medical treatment or advice
- undertaken emergency evacuation practises to ensure children have a full understanding of how to keep themselves safe
- encourage children to have an awareness of diversity and the wider world, extend resources that have positive images, to include positive images of disability
- further develop the provision for children under three, for example, through the use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework

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