

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	260141
Inspection date	11 March 2008
Inspector	Georgina Walker

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 2001. She lives with her husband and family including an adult son and child aged eight. The whole of the ground floor, small rear bedroom and bathroom upstairs in the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has a tank of fish.

The childminder walks to the local school and nursery school to take and collect children.

She attends the local parent, carer and toddler group and takes children to the library and local park.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding 10 children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. Four under five during the day, three over five before and/or after school and three over eight. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health and safety is admirably promoted. They learn about personal hygiene through daily routines and are made aware why they wash hands so there are no germs on them. All use paper towels and place used ones in the bin without reminders. This prevents the risk of cross-infection very effectively. Food handling procedures are exemplary as the childminder holds a food hygiene certificate and has extensive knowledge of potential hazards. If children are ill or infectious a comprehensive written policy regarding exclusion is implemented. The childminder consistently follows procedures when dealing with accidents and medication. Accident and existing injuries records contain detail which safeguard children. A first aid box is available and contents are suitable to effectively meet the needs of the children. Written consent to seek emergency medical advice and treatment is in place to ensure children's medical needs are met if a more serious injury occurs. This is also taken on outings to further protect children and promote their well-being.

Children's dietary needs are exceptionally well met and healthy eating is promoted. Individual needs are discussed with parents and recorded. Snacks provided are very healthy and nutritious as children enjoy snacks of fruit. For lunches they have a hot meal such as a roast dinner, fish or lasagne. They enjoy potatoes, carrots and swede and eagerly clear their plates before having jelly, fruit or ice cream for pudding. Drinks are readily available and children ask or help themselves. Babies individual routines are appropriately followed and intake is shared with parents to confirm needs are met.

Physical development is prominent. Children have extensive opportunities to play outside and have a wide range of activities inside to encourage a positive attitude to healthy exercise. Wheeled toys to ride or push, balls to throw and kick, imaginary play resources as well as swing ball are enthusiastically accessed by the children. Older children have free access to the garden off the patio and under fives are accompanied as they learn to negotiate steps carefully. They use the 'trim trail' in school whilst waiting in the playground and go to the park most days, developing stamina on the journey. Indoors they have a range of walkers and furniture to move around and puzzles to assist in development of fine motor skills. Older children are very dexterous as they dress dolls and mark-make with increasing skill. Rest periods on age-appropriate equipment are provided to effectively meet children's individual needs. Consequently, children are able to develop a very healthy lifestyle.

The childminder has the 'Birth to three matters' framework pack, has attended training, is exceptionally well aware of the terminology and follows an approach in line with the framework. Children under three are progressing rapidly through the worthy activities she provides. Progress is recorded in an impressive diary of the child's placement with childminder and shared with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in warm and welcoming, safe, secure and suitable premises where there is ample space indoors to play and learn comfortably. Their individual skills develop competently with the exemplary range of age-appropriate resources. Children independently select activities from the range of high quality toys and equipment. Resources are stored in a box behind the

settee and on low shelves in the small rear bedroom. A pile of boxed games are accessible in the hall and children eagerly help themselves, after asking 'please may I have...?' They can request activities from the extensive variety stored in the garage and play-house outdoors, or choose from those presented, depending on the ages and stages of those present. Older children take small resources to the dining table and engage in worthwhile activities without presenting hazards to younger children. They show respect of property and as they are careful this ensures the toys remain in good condition for use.

The children's safety is fully promoted throughout the premises as the childminder is rigorous in her risk assessments. She has attended comprehensive training, which includes fire safety for child carers. An awareness of safety during a fire is promoted exceptionally well and concerns shown by children at the sound of the alarm have been successfully calmed. Children are also developing an awareness of personal safety as they respond suitably to the childminder's expectations when they are on school journeys and outings.

The children's well-being is consistently given priority as the childminder has an impressive understanding of child protection procedures and how to put these into practice. Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures have been received and training is regularly attended to update knowledge. Information of her duty to protect children is shared with each parent in the well-written policy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children experience an extensive range of activities which contributes to their development inside and outside the setting. The childminder has attended 'Birth to three matters' training but does not follow any specific educational approach to effectively ensure children's progress. However, activities are stimulating. Children engage for long periods of time as they enjoy playing with dough they have helped to make as a further learning experience of mixing ingredients. Older children want to relax after school, some do homework and all are eager to instigate play outdoors which ensures individual needs are met. They show younger children how to develop skills on the computer and help with a wide variety of electronic games. Creative play opportunities are often spontaneous such as when making Easter hats or collage pictures. The children look forward to reading books and having cuddles as they sit on the settee and use finger puppets to act out the 'Three Little Pigs' story. Children show good imagination as they use a range of voices as they manipulate small figures around the toy farm or make fairy dolls fly. Children's individual needs are met and their welfare is promoted through the childminder providing beneficial support. School holiday activities are planned to include visits to Sherwood Forest and Creswell Crags, where children learn about history, nature and local legends.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are fully supported to develop a strong awareness of self and the world around them. The childminder has a commendable understanding of equality of opportunity issues and meeting individual needs effectively. She encourages all children to access age-appropriate activities and develop life skills. Children play with an impressive range of resources of positive images promoting diversity within society.

The childminder has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and a solid understanding of potential need. She is aware to adapt activities to ensure inclusion and has a positive attitude to caring for children who have temporary difficulties. Children's needs are effectively met through discussion with parents and the childminder has a clear understanding of how to work with parents and outside agencies.

An exemplary range of policies have been produced for parents which include the principles of good behaviour management. Effectively implemented the childminder manages a wide range of children's behaviour. Children behave appropriately as they respond to boundaries set and as they are always purposefully occupied, issues are few. The word 'bored' is banned as children have no excuses not to engage in the activities. They spontaneously use good manners at meal times and when asking for resources. Consistent appropriate management helps children feel secure knowing what they can and cannot do. Good use of praise and encouragement helps to build development of children's self-esteem and team-work is successfully encouraged.

Positive relationships with parents and a desire to work in partnership with them to meet children's individual needs ensures the childminder is able to meet children's emotional and physical needs very effectively. Children are settled and very happy. Parents are updated on their children's well-being and development through a placement diary if they wish. The childminder ensures parents are fully aware of her policies and procedures and how children will be cared for during discussion at initial visits. Parents are aware of the complaints process as the childminder has a comprehensive policy and the complaints log is included. The childminder ensures confidentiality of all information and this is only shared on a need to know basis. The professional relationship the childminder has with parents leads them to provide information about her service for the inspection process.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The children's needs are consistently met by the childminder to an exceptionally high standard. She maintains the regulatory records effectively and provides a service way above the required standards with regard to the policies she has produced for parents and the worthwhile activities she provides for children. All successfully promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. The childminder meets the qualification criteria as she has a required current first aid certificate. Children are supported skilfully by the childminder as they are under her direct supervision to ensure their time with her is enjoyable. She is exceptionally well-organised to meet the wide age range of children's needs. There is plenty of space and an interesting range of resources to stimulate the children. The childminder is caring and attentive to children's needs. They enjoy the exciting range of play opportunities, becoming absorbed in their play. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder agreed to address two recommendations relating to information. Written information for parents regarding the childminding facilities and provision has been produced in an extensive range of documents and are presented to parents to retain as necessary. Information regarding child protection issues is continuously updated. The childminder has been on training during 2007 and developed comprehensive awareness of her duty to protect children. The written policy reflects Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Parents can be assured their children's welfare is given top priority and the

childminder persistently ensures she has a proactive approach to work in partnership with them to meet children's needs.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- continue to develop planning of activities to ensure children's progress.

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