

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY347997
Inspection date	19 August 2008
Inspector	Jan Burnet
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 2007. She lives with her four children aged 17, 12, seven and six years. The family currently lives in Northampton but will be moving to Manchester in September 2008. The whole house is registered for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under eight years at any one time and is currently caring for one school-aged child. She walks to the local school to take and collect her own and the minded child.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is appropriately protected because the childminder makes sure that standards of hygiene are sound with preventative measures in place to ensure minimal risk to children.

Children are aware of good practice with regard to hand washing and are appropriately protected because the childminder provides antibacterial liquid soap. Children's best interests are satisfactorily served in case of accidents at home because the childminder holds an in-date first aid certificate.

Children benefit from a healthy diet and the childminder's appropriate food hygiene practices. Parents currently provide a packed lunch and the childminder provides healthy snacks and a substantial and nutritious tea. She ensures that she provides a balance of fruit and vegetables, protein and carbohydrates. Children's emotional well-being is initially addressed with a good settling-in procedure and children are happy and secure in the childminder's care. They develop physical skills and confidence using challenging equipment at the park and ball games at home.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and eat in satisfactorily safe and healthy premises. The childminder ensures that the premises are warm and welcoming. The family's sitting room is the playroom and bedrooms are also registered but are not currently being used by minded children.

Children learn how to keep themselves safe, for example, road safety when walking to and from school and the park. However, children's safety is compromised because the fire drill has not been practised. The childminder is alert to her responsibilities with regard to supervision at all times and children's risk of injury inside the home is minimised because she has identified and satisfactorily addressed potential hazards. Children are safe because the childminder ensures that they are not able to leave the premises unsupervised.

The childminder has received paperwork from the local authority on Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and would follow these procedures if concerned about a child. However, she does not demonstrate a sound awareness of the signs of abuse and neglect, which potentially impacts upon children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy playing with the adequate range of toys and activities provided by the childminder. Resources satisfactorily meet the needs of children at different stages of development. Information on achievements are shared verbally with parents at the end of the day.

Children are happy and settled. They are cared for as individuals and relationships are positive. Routines are consistent and include activities inside and outside the home. Children enjoy regular trips to the park and the library. Since registration the childminder has cared for school-age children only, however, resources suitable for different ages are available. In conversation she demonstrates that young children would be encouraged to count and name shapes and colours as they play, and also develop manipulation skills with regular use of malleable materials and small toys and equipment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are known by the childminder. Consistency of care is appropriately addressed with a good settling-in procedure and daily verbal communication. Admission forms contain required information. The childminder invites parents to share any concerns with her, but detail on the required complaints procedure is not shared; specifically, required timescales for responding to written complaints and parents' rights to access records.

Children's religious and cultural needs and dietary requirements are known by the childminder and through discussion children gain some awareness of ways in which people are different. Some books and dolls that reflect positive images are provided. The childminder has not yet been asked to care for a child with a learning difficulty and/or a disability. She is aware that some children have specific needs and understands the importance of liaising closely with parents and possibly outside agencies to help children feel supported and involved. Children are aware of rules regarding behaviour and are encouraged to share and take turns. They benefit from the childminder's consistent methods of behaviour management which include, talking and explaining, and if necessary sitting down to play calmly. Children respond positively when praised.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are made very welcome in the childminder's home. Admission information and verbal communication with parents ensure that their needs are known and appropriately met. Meeting children's different developmental needs is addressed satisfactorily with the choice of toys and a balanced range of activities.

Most required documentation is kept up to date and in satisfactory order, although parents are not aware of complaints procedures and records. The childminder demonstrates a commitment to improving her knowledge and skills by attending training.

Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 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):

- practise the fire drill
- develop knowledge in order to recognise possible signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect
- develop a complaints procedure to include the revision to criteria Oct 2005.

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