

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY362983
Inspection date	08 April 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 2007. She lives with a family friend and her friend's child aged 22 months, in Leicester. The whole ground floor and the bathroom on the first 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five years.

She is a qualified nurse and is member of the National Childminding Association. Schools, parks, shops and places of interest are within easy walking or driving distance.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children actively take part in a wide range of indoor and outdoor play opportunities to develop their physical skills. They enthusiastically participate in activities that encourage their

development and co-ordination. They benefit from taking fresh air and exercise by playing in the large enclosed garden. Children run, jump, climb and play freely in the garden and on frequent trips to local places of interest, parks and recreation facilities.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean home where good hygiene practices are consistently maintained. Children are effectively protected from the risk of cross-infection, for example, antibacterial sprays are used to cleanse surfaces and children do not attend if they are unwell or suffering from any infections. Children are beginning to understand about their own personal care and learn about good hygiene practices through daily routines. For example, they wash their hands after playing in the garden and the childminder ensures children wash their hands before mealtimes. Children rest when they are tired and good arrangements are made by the childminder for children to engage in quiet as well as busy activities.

A good range of written policies and procedures are in place, for example, regarding the management of accidents and administration of medication, consequently parents are kept well informed and children's health and well-being is promoted.

Children recognise when they are thirsty and are able to access their drinks at all times so that they remain well hydrated. Children are developing an awareness of healthy eating. Their allergies and preferences are addressed and children are encouraged to choose from healthy meal options and nutritious snacks. These include a variety of fruits and vegetables, such as bananas and celery sticks. Children, therefore, are able to explore the new tastes and learn about how healthy food can help to promote their growth and development.

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 effectively minimised. Children can move freely and independently under the careful supervision of the childminder and they are always within her sight or hearing. Children cannot leave the premises unsupervised as external doors are kept locked with the key located appropriately in case of fire evacuation. Security systems are in place to ensure unauthorised persons do not have access to the children, therefore, their welfare is safeguarded.

Children play safely in areas of the home that are designated for childcare purposes. Children use a wide range of toys and equipment that are checked regularly, meet appropriate safety regulations and that they can choose and access safely. The garden is enclosed, electrical socket covers are in place and hazardous items, for example, medicines, cleaning materials, sharp knives and kitchen utensils are stored out of reach of the children, so they remain safe and free from harm.

Children are generally protected from the risk of fire, as most fire safety issues have been taken into account. An emergency evacuation plan has been considered, however, it has not yet been fully devised or practised. All equipment is in place and well maintained, for example, a fire blanket is located in the kitchen and smoke detectors are situated on both levels of the home.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and reporting procedures. She is aware of Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance, the signs and symptoms of abuse and of her duty to protect the children in her care, therefore, children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, relaxed and settled in the care of the childminder. They are confident in their surroundings and move freely between different play activities that develop their imagination, creativity and curiosity. Children play with toys they have chosen and with the encouragement of the childminder, children extend their learning and develop their skills. Children frequently engage in a variety of meaningful, social experiences, for example, visiting the local Sure Start 'stay and play' sessions and going to the shops or library.

Children have easy access to a wide range of activities and play opportunities that are varied and flexible. The childminder embraces new training opportunities and has identified the need to develop her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage so that she can more effectively address the ongoing development of the children and specifically plan for the next stages of their learning.

Children relate well to the childminder and the children in her care are secure and content. They receive good care and affection, play imaginatively, exchange lively conversation and explore toys and activities independently. Children's self-esteem, language and communication skills are actively promoted, through the use of stories, lively conversation and social interaction, consequently they enjoy the activities provided and have fun.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of equal opportunity issues and has a clear understanding of the importance of supporting children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Children have access to activities and resources that reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability. Therefore, children extend their knowledge and develop their insight regarding diversity. They meet other children and adults when going to the Sure Start 'stay and play' sessions, go on outings to the library, local places of interest, parks and recreation areas. This helps to develop their sense of belonging to the local community.

Strategies are in place to manage children's behaviour effectively. Children behave well and they respond positively to simple and consistent house rules so that they know what is expected of them, for example, saying 'please' and 'thank you'. Children are valued and respected as individuals and their achievements are encouraged and praised, therefore, their self-esteem and sense of identity is enhanced.

The childminder recognises and values the importance of providing parents with a good range of information about the childminding service and listening to them. Consequently children's individual needs are identified and met. At the time a child is placed in the care of the childminder, parents receive a range of documentation and information about the childminding service. The childminder understands the importance of taking positive steps to ensure information is exchanged with parents on a regular basis through daily dialogue and regular contractual reviews. Therefore, children benefit from this consistency of care, for example, maintaining similar routines, ensuring children's preferences and allergies are addressed and a healthy diet is provided. They feel secure and parents develop confidence and trust in the childminder and the service that is offered.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and relaxed in the calm, comfortable and well-organised environment. The space available is appropriate to meet children's play and learning needs. As a result, children have opportunities to make choices and engage in a wide range of well-chosen activities both inside and outdoors. This enables children to be imaginative, develop their curiosity, grow in confidence, learn and have fun.

Children's care and welfare is supported by the childminder's business-like approach to her childminding service. Appropriate information is gathered from the parents at the time the child is placed with the childminder. This information is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that parents feel consulted about their children's care and are aware of the procedures and range of written policies that she has in place. Therefore, the children receive continuity of care, their development is promoted and their welfare is safeguarded.

Children receive good care and the childminder provides a reliable service to the parents and children, which is based on her sensitive approach and the careful organisation of her childminding service. The childminder is aware of her duty to effectively meet the National Standards and takes seriously her childminding responsibilities. Appropriate records are maintained, kept for the appropriate length of time, stored securely and confidentiality is maintained. The childminder embraces new training opportunities, for example, she has completed courses in first aid, introduction to childminding practice and is enrolled on the Early Years Foundation Stage training workshop. These training opportunities extend her skills and knowledge so that the care, protection and developmental needs of the children in her care are enhanced. 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 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):

- devise and practise an emergency escape plan.

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