

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	260849
Inspection date	13 August 2008
Inspector	Dianne Lynn Sadler

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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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 mother and adult sisters in Derbyshire. The whole of the ground floor of the premises is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding six children aged from one year to eleven years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder supports children with English as an additional language. The family have three dogs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy and are cared for well in a clean environment. The childminder has implemented clear and concise policies and procedures which reflect good health and hygiene practices. For example, pets are managed well and children are beginning to learn the importance of simple good health and hygiene practices through daily routines. They wash their hands

before mealtimes to remove germs using liquid soap and their own individual face cloths. This helps minimise the risk of cross-infection. Children receive good care when they have an accident or become ill. The childminder maintains clear, concise records and has permissions for all of her practice. This safeguards children's welfare.

Children are well nourished. There is a well-written sample menu available which shows they enjoy a varied range of meals and snacks that are nutritious and healthy. For instance, they enjoy a hot meal such as spaghetti bolognese or sausage and mash and at snack time they enjoy fresh fruit such as bananas. Children also access drinks of milk or water throughout the day which helps to ensure they are well hydrated. Children are learning about healthy eating and consider what foods are good and bad for us during well-planned activities.

Children enjoy physical activities daily and have opportunities to access fresh air. They walk the dogs in the community and walk to and from school and the shops. They now have access to a stimulating outside play area where they can ride wheeled toys and play ball games. Children also benefit from music and movement sessions indoors. All children can rest and relax according to their needs. When tired they can request to watch their favourite DVDs on the television sitting on large cushions.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for in a safe and secure home. The childminder uses the available space effectively to meet the children's needs and promote their development. Children benefit from using a dedicated playroom, which provides a relaxed environment that helps them to settle and feel confident. The risk of accidental injury to children is minimised because the childminder takes positive steps to prevent accidents. All hazards both indoors and outdoors have been identified and recorded well on a written risk assessment. Children are learning to keep themselves safe. For instance, they practise the clear emergency evacuation procedure and learn about good road safety when outdoors.

Children have good access to an extensive range of good quality furniture and play equipment suitable to meet their different needs. Play resources are stored well and easily accessed by the children. This fosters their independence and allows them choice. The childminder uses effective methods to ensure that toys and resources are well-maintained and are appropriate to the age and needs of all children present.

Children are protected from harm and their welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of her role in child protection. She now follows a well-written policy and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle and play well in the childminder's home because she is able to give them good support when needed and individual attention. They benefit from a stimulating environment in which they are happy, content and secure. Children are developing positive relationships with each other and the childminder who demonstrates a warm and caring nature. They are listened to and engaged in conversation and encouraged to express themselves. Younger children are showing a growing confidence and ability to communicate their needs as they indicate what they want to do next. The childminder has developed her knowledge of different

frameworks such as 'Birth to three matters' and provides a broad range of activities to help children's development in all areas of learning.

Children are well motivated and interested in activities and experiences that are purposeful, allowing them to explore, investigate and develop their independence. Some activities are planned and organised, whilst others are initiated by children themselves. For instance, younger children enjoy playing in the ball pool. They develop good hand and eye co-ordination as they attempt to place balls down a cardboard tube. They also benefit from accessing a treasure box. They are able to explore items such as feathers, metal whisks and shiny paper using all of their senses. All children enjoy creative activities, developing their imagination. They benefit from baking and decorating cakes and older children enjoy making a health and safety poster using paint and collage materials.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued, respected as individuals and treated with equal concern. The childminder provides an inclusive service to children in her care. She ensures the environment and activities planned meets the needs of all children present. She organises her time effectively and children benefit from being given individual attention and support when needed. The childminder has the experience of caring for children with disabilities and/or learning difficulties. She understands the importance of working in partnership with parents and others to meet children's individual needs. Children are becoming aware of the wider society through a good range of play resources which reflect positive images. For instance, they access books, puzzles and small world characters that show positive images of disability and different cultures.

Children are learning to understand responsible behaviour. The 'House rules' are displayed and there are clear expectations and boundaries recorded in a well-written policy. Children feel secure knowing what they can and cannot do. They are encouraged to show kindness to each other and show respect for the environment. Their efforts are rewarded well by children collecting stars for their good behaviour displayed on a chart in the playroom.

Children are cared for and supported well by the childminder. She promotes positive relationships with parents and works in partnership with them to ensure children's individual needs are met successfully. Children receive care consistent with home. Parents are made welcome in the setting and information is shared daily. Parents benefit from accessing well-written policies, which include the clear complaints procedure. Parents also benefit from accessing their child's 'What we do' book which details the activities children have participated in.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Overall children's needs are not met. The childminder does not comply with all the regulation requirements. She still has not attended the required childminder's pre-registration course. The childminder does show she is committed to improving her knowledge and understanding and is willing to undertake training. For instance, her knowledge of the National Standards and relevant legislation is greatly improved and she has attended courses which include first aid, health and safety and, planning and assessment. This helps to ensure children are cared for by an appropriate adult. Her supportive manner ensures children feel at home and at ease.

The childminder has implemented well-written policies and she has permissions for all of her practice. This helps to promote the welfare, care and learning of all children, according to the wishes of their parents. All documentation is shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. The registration certificate is now displayed well. All documents are reviewed regularly and stored securely.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was told to; develop knowledge of the criteria within the National Standards, guidance, revisions and addendum; provide evidence of how she requests written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and provide evidence of how she will complete a local authority approved childminder's course as soon as possible.

She has greatly improved her knowledge of the National Standards and relevant legislation and has all written permissions for her practice in place. However, she still has not attended a local authority approved childminder's course which compromises children's welfare.

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 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

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The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- provide evidence of how you will complete a local authority approved childminder's pre-registration course as soon as possible.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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