

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY367052
Inspection date	10 June 2008
Inspector	Lindsey Pollock
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 has been a registered since January 2008. She lives with her partner and her son aged 20 months in Carrville. The house is within walking distance of the local primary school and other local facilities. Minded children have access to all of the ground floor of the house, the second bedroom and first floor bathroom. There is an enclosed garden area at the rear of the house with a supply of play equipment for outdoor use. The family has two dogs and a rabbit.

The childminder is National Nursery Examination Board qualified. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for five children under eight years and is currently caring for three children under eight years and two older children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being in premises which are clean and comfortable. Their understanding of health and hygiene in their daily routines is increasing as the good examples set by the

childminder. They are gaining awareness of why it is important to wash their hands before meals and after going to the toilet. Liquid soap and individual towels are available for the children to use which helps to minimise cross infection. Detailed accident and medication recording systems are in place to safeguard children's health. There is a well stocked first aid kit in place which is replenished as required. A travel kit for the car and outings is also available. Daily opportunities for active, physical play contribute to the children's good health. They are developing strong, healthy bodies as they go for walks, play in the garden and in the park. They enjoy swimming which enables them to get exercise whilst having lots of fun and building their water confidence.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children are suitably nourished. She is happy to meet parents' requests for food provision, and is flexible regarding this to meet their needs and those of the children. Healthy snacks of fresh fruit are offered to the children along with plenty of drinks so they are not thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and homely environment. Space is organised so children have freedom to move around independently and make choices about what they want to do and play with. Quiet areas allow children to rest without disturbance. Good quality, interesting and stimulating resources are easily accessible and the childminder ensures that these remain safe and suitable for use with regular checking and thorough cleaning routines. Resources are well chosen to promote children's learning and development.

The childminder sees children's safety as a priority. She completes written risk assessments to ensure all areas of her home are safe for children. Appropriate steps are taken, such as fitting stair gates, cupboard locks and socket covers. Children's differing development stages are taken into account to keep them safe. Effective arrangements are made for children to be cared for by another registered childminder who the children know, should an emergency situation occur.

Children are well protected. The childminder has completed training on child protection and is confident in her role of ensuring children are protected from abuse. Detailed written information is in place with relevant contact numbers to allow her to report any concerns about children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's care. They relate well to her and happily cuddle into her when being fed and playing. There is lots of verbal interaction, eye contact and encouragement so children feel secure and good about themselves. Young babies respond very well; they watch the childminder move around the room and give her big smiles when she speaks to them. Their self-esteem is developing and they are very pleased with themselves when managing to roll over on the rug. Children's own routines are followed closely and are consistent with those at home to promote children's sense of security. Daily diaries and information about activities are given to parents to ensure that they are fully informed of their child's care and involved in their learning.

The childminder has a good understanding of how to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to support children in their earliest years. She provides a wide range of interesting resources

and appropriate toys for them to promote their learning, such as mirrors, musical toys and books that make different sounds. She is sensitive to children's needs and plans appropriate activities for children returning home from school and nursery when they may be tired. Outings to the swimming pool and to toddler group allow for new experiences for young children, and for them to learn to socialise. They enjoy their trips to the library where they choose books to bring back to the childminder's house. Observations of children are completed and this information enables the childminder to plan activities to extend their learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder is committed to equality and ensures children feel valued and free from discrimination. Books and other resources to raise children's awareness of diversity are easily accessible to children. They are stored amongst other resources and are played with on a daily basis. The childminder is a positive role model for children and actively promotes anti-discriminatory practice. Behaviour is managed in a positive, consistent and developmentally appropriate way. This helps to raise children's self-esteem and confidence and so they begin to know what is expected of them.

Trusting partnerships have been established with parents to help to promote children's wellbeing, development and progress. The childminder recognises the importance of working with parents and values their input into the provision. Good quality documentation ensures that parents are well informed of the setting's policies and procedures. However, although a written complaints policy is in place, a format to record any complaints is not available. Verbal and written information is exchanged to keep parents fully informed of their child's care and learning. Settling-in procedures are effective to ensure that children feel happy and secure in their environment, and so that parents are reassured that their children will be well cared for.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has much experience of caring for a wide age range of children and has a relevant childcare qualification. All mandatory training requirements are met. She continues to update her knowledge through attending further training and reading childcare publications. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the National Standards and of her responsibilities for meeting these.

Children feel at home and relaxed in the well organised environment, resulting in them being confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The required ratios are maintained and time is organised effectively which allows children to receive good support and care. A record is kept of children's attendance, however, the times recorded are not completely accurate.

Good quality, well organised records, policies and procedures are in place and are kept appropriately. These are shared regularly with parents to keep them fully informed about the service, the activities and the care provided for their children. This contributes to continuity in the children's care.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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 a format for recording complaints
- keep an accurate record of the times of children's attendance.

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