

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	260414
Inspection date	03 July 2008
Inspector	Judith Rayner

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 registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and three children in a terraced house in Retford, north Nottinghamshire. The family has a hamster and lizard. There are local amenities close by such as a park, shops and schools. The whole of the downstairs is used for the purpose of childminding with toilet facilities also on this floor. The childminder is registered to care for five children under eight years of age. There are two children on roll who attend various sessions throughout the week. 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 promoted suitably because the childminder has sufficient systems in place to prevent the spread of infection. For example, surfaces are wiped and prepared carefully with anti-bacterial substances and washes her hands before handling food. Children learn the importance of personal hygiene. They generally wash their hands or use wipes before eating and after they have had their nappies changed. Children's immediate medical needs are

compromised because the childminder has insufficient systems in place for obtaining parents and carers written consent for the seeking of emergency medical advice and treatment and does not hold a current first aid certificate.

The dietary needs of children are met satisfactorily. The childminder finds out from parents and carers about their needs and adheres to these accordingly. Meals offered are healthy and well-balanced such as home made Shepherd's pie, fresh vegetables, fruit and yoghurt. Children's independence skills develop as they recognise when they are thirsty and access their own non-spill cups and bottles.

Children spend time in various environments developing their large muscle skills. They enjoy time in the fresh air running around at the park and using the low-level climbing apparatus. They also participate in local community sessions such as movement to music.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder's home is generally clean and tidy. Children access the whole of the ground floor spending time in most rooms as they freely move from one area to another. They access a range of suitable toys and resources that are safe, stimulating and appropriate for their age and ability. Children choose and self-select toys. This is because they are stored in low-level storage units or are presented on the floor. This encourages all children from a young age to make choices in their play.

Children's safety is compromised. This is because they have access to hazardous items such as cleaning fluids in the bathroom and broken fences and toys in the garden. Risk assessments are not fully effective and do not minimise some risks to children. For example, emergency fire evacuation procedures are not fully in place. Therefore, children do not learn to understand the importance of leaving the house quickly in order to remain safe. Children are supervised well. The childminder holds young babies in her arms and remains close to them when they are on the floor. Older children are watched more from a distance encouraging them to develop their confidence and independence skills. The safeguarding of children is not effective. This is because the childminder has insufficient knowledge of the local Safeguarding Children Board policies and procedures and, what to do if an allegation is made against herself or another household member.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settling well in the childminder's care. The childminder is sensitive to new children starting and observes the children from the start to further identify their needs. Good relationships are forming well between the children and the childminder. Children happily receive and give cuddles. Children are engaged in their play. They freely move around the rooms self-selecting toys and activities of their choice. Their imaginative skills are developing well from an early age. For example, one young child holds a plastic skittle up to their ear and 'babbles' nodding its head, using it like a telephone. Children's self-esteem and confidence is developing well. This is because the childminder gets down on the floor with the children and engages in conversation and involves herself in their play. Good eye contact, smiles and soft tones encourage children to feel secure and safe.

Play is generally not planned although is informally structured within the daily routines. Children are observed and then the childminder assesses their learning needs and provides play to support their interests and development. Activities provided support children's all-round development. They spend time both inside and outside the home such as painting in the house and visiting the park and participate in local physical activity sessions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are met suitably. The childminder finds out from the parents and carers from the onset to what their children's needs are and provides activities and informal routines to help children settle quickly. Children learn about their local community as they visit shops, parks and attend the local childminding groups meeting other children of similar ages. Children have access to some toys and resources that positively promote other's similarities, differences, religions and cultures. There are suitable systems in place to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Girls and boys access the same toys prompting equality of opportunity and an inclusive environment.

The behaviour of children is good. They learn the boundaries and expectations that the childminder positively promotes. This is because clear and consistent messages are given to them to help them understand what is acceptable and what is not. This encourages children to feel safe and secure. Their self-esteem is good. Children are praised with positive words, smiles and cuddles.

The partnership with parents and carers is suitably in place. The childminder works well with them to ensure information is exchanged about their child. This is achieved mostly verbally with some written information to support this further such as some policies and procedures. Therefore, most of the children's needs are identified and practice is put in to place to meet them.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are protected against any adults who are not vetted. This is because the childminder does not leave the children with any one who has not been suitably checked. An emergency cover procedure is in place should a situation arise where the childminder is unable to care for minded children. For example, another registered childminder is recruited and this arrangement is agreed with parents and carers. Children are familiar with the routine and expectations of the day. They are settled, confident and happy. The childminder supports this further as their individual routines are adhered to such as sleep and eating patterns.

Some documentation is in place and most required records are appropriately maintained. However, the system for recording children's attendance is not fully effective and has the potential for some times not to be accurately recorded and are not available for inspection. Parents and carers have some access to written policies and procedures, although these are minimal and are less informative. Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection one action was raised requiring the provider to maintain a first aid certificate. Two recommendations were also raised to improve the practice for the seeking of medical advice and treatment and to develop further knowledge on child protection issues. Although a first aid certificate was obtained this has since run out and has not been maintained. This is a breach of registration and another action has been raised within this inspection. Improvements have not been made in relation to the two recommendations regarding the seeking of emergency medical advice and treatment and development of knowledge regarding child protection issues. Children's safety and immediate medical needs are compromised. Therefore, actions have been raised within this inspection to ensure children's safety and health is significantly improved.

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 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 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:

- ensure all hazards are inaccessible and improve the systems in place to minimise risks to children
- ensure an increase of knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and the Local Safeguarding Children Board policies and procedures is undertaken
- ensure all documentation is available for inspection and written consents for the seeking of emergency medical advice and treatment are in place
- ensure a current first aid certificate is maintained.

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