

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY359607
Inspection date	22 July 2008
Inspector	Jean Otter
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 her husband and adult child in Derby. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children before and after school, two of whom are under eight. The childminder takes and collects children from school. The family has a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, comfortable home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through the childminder's consistent daily routines. They know for example, to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating meals. Children access toys and equipment which are clean and in a good state of repair and they can rest or be active according to their needs. The well-being of the children is properly considered as the childminder follows current and appropriate guidelines, policies and procedures, for example if children become ill or during a medical emergency.

The childminder provides healthy snacks for children attending after school. They also have opportunities to bake and decorate small cakes to have with their tea, which supports the children's interest in food. Drinks are available at all times which ensures children remain hydrated. The childminder respects the wishes of parents with regard to any special dietary needs.

Children benefit from fresh air and exercise. They often go, for example, to the local park after school and use the garden under supervision where a range of equipment is available to support their physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children use a wide range of safe, good quality and developmentally appropriate toys and resources. They are able to self-select which helps to promote their independence skills. Equipment and furniture is practical and clean, ensuring a comfortable environment. Children are well supervised by the childminder which further safeguards their welfare.

A good range of safety measures are in place to protect children from harm, for example sockets are covered and hazardous materials and implements are stored out of the children's reach. Security of the premises is also effective, the front door is kept locked and the garden is fully secure. Children are learning aspects of safety, for example the childminder talks to them about road safety, 'stranger danger' and the evacuation procedure, which helps them to understand how to keep themselves safe in an emergency situation. Fire safety equipment is in place. The childminder has appropriately considered her procedures for if a child is lost, again supporting the safety of the children in an emergency.

The childminder is fully aware of her responsibilities regarding child protection, ensuring that children remain safe. Procedures that relate to the Local Safeguarding Children Board are fully understood.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the setting. They are confident and approach the childminder for their needs which are met well. She demonstrates good communication skills with the children and has a regard for and encourages their interests. This helps them to become confident individuals and skilful communicators. She listens and talks to them, values what they say and do and develops their self-esteem by the positive use of meaningful praise and encouragement. She takes the opportunity for spontaneous discussion, drawing on comments the children have made to expand their thinking. The childminder encourages the children to become independent as they can choose which activities they want to play with. A wide range of supplementary resources are accessible to support the activities. There are good opportunities for children to develop their imagination and creativity as they take part in a wide range of craft, painting and drawing activities. The children play bingo which helps with their numbers and they practise their writing skills. They are learning social skills, and to negotiate and problem solve. A varied range of physical activities are also available, including a croquet set on the lawn, a dance mat, scooters and hula hoops.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and are fully included in the life of the setting. The childminder has a positive approach to diversity, however has not yet been fully pro-active in this area due to other considerations. The childminder is aware of children's developmental stages, consequently she feels able to approach parents if she is concerned about children's progress and obtain appropriate support to ensure that they can make progress.

Excellent behaviour management methods are in place which support children in their understanding of what is right and wrong. They are encouraged to be helpful, to be kind to one another and to animals, and to develop a sense of compassion and conscience. The childminder sets realistic boundaries for behaviour depending on the age and stage of development of the child. The use of rewards, praise and encouragement as children try to achieve different tasks helps them to develop their self-esteem. Behaviour is discussed with parents and other professionals that may be involved with the children and the childminder is very aware of the importance of a consistent approach.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has developed with parents, for example the childminder spends time at each session sharing information with them about their child's well-being and how their needs are met during the day. Written information for new parents outlines policy procedures. The wishes of parents are respected as written parental permission is sought for various activities, and written contracts set out the childminding arrangements. The childminder is aware of the appropriate procedure in the event of receiving a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The organisation of the premises ensures children are well cared for, and contributes positively to their safety, good health, enjoyment and achievement. Space and resources are organised well to effectively meet their individual needs. Safety and security precautions are well considered. Children are supported appropriately to achieve their potential and the childminder works closely with their parents to enable this progress. The childminder is developing her childcare knowledge and skills by attending suitable training which impacts positively on the well-being and enjoyment of the children.

Children's welfare is promoted effectively because the childminder has all the required documentation in place which contributes to their health, safety and well-being. For example, children's records, which include information from parents, supports the children's individual needs and the daily register showing children's times of arrival and departure impacts positively on their safety. Overall, the needs of the children 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):

- consider how to improve inclusive practice within the childminding

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