



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY306791
Inspection date	08 December 2005
Inspector	Patricia Bowler

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 2005. She lives with her husband, brother in law and children aged six and two years in Leicester. The whole of the ground floor and bathroom facilities on the first floor are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy environment where they receive good levels of care through consistent routines. Thorough hygiene practices prevent the spread of infection and children are developing a good understanding of personal hygiene. They know to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Clear documentation is recorded with parents to ensure children's health and dietary needs are met. However, written permission to seek any emergency medical advice or treatment is not obtained for all children. Clear procedures ensure that any accidents children have are managed appropriately as the childminder has knowledge of first aid, available first aid equipment and clear recording systems. Children access a fully enclosed garden for outside play and planned visits to local recreational facilities provide additional opportunities for children to run freely and enhance their climbing skills on park equipment. Food is hygienically prepared and children enjoy the meals provided. A varied range of foods are provided to encourage children to develop healthy eating habits. They enjoy a variety of healthy snacks between meals including fresh fruit. Drinks are readily accessible for children to have when they require. Good arrangements ensure children can rest and sleep peacefully to ensure their emotional well-being is promoted.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from vigilant procedures to provide a safe and secure environment. Effective arrangements ensure that all areas accessed by children are safe and good security measures ensure children are not able to leave the premises unsupervised. Appropriate safety equipment minimises any potential hazards and babies are kept safe with the use of harnesses in furniture and pushchairs to ensure they are securely strapped in. Good organisation of furniture allows space for children to move freely and facilitates active play and relaxation. Age appropriate toys are suitably stored to enable older children to access independently without compromising the safety of younger children. Appropriate fire safety equipment is available and a clear procedure for emergency evacuation is established and practised. Suitable arrangements are established to keep children safe on outings. They benefit from conscientious arrangements to ensure younger children are safe with the use of secure straps in pushchairs. Children are protected from harm because the childminder understands her role in child protection and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary. She has attended appropriate training and parents are fully informed of her responsibility to protect children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

A very good range of toys and play resources are readily accessible to children. They have opportunities to make active choices about their play and promote their natural curiosity to assist in their overall development. Good indoor activities provide levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. Babies develop good skills in early communication and movement as they respond to positive encouragement to talk and crawl. Communication skills are enhanced by the childminder's sensitive verbal interaction and babies respond with smiles and babbling. They show interest in the resources and activities available and explore toys to actively promote sensory development. A range of toys encourage babies to develop touch and they delight in pressing these to produce sound and music. Good interaction and verbal encouragement from the childminder introduces children to the needs of others as they learn to share and take turns. Children are developing good social interaction and have warm relationships with known adults. They respond positively to the childminder's continuous use of praise and encouragement. Resources for older children are stored appropriately to enable them to access independently to promote their confidence and self-esteem. Alphabet friezes and use of music and story tapes enhance their awareness of text and sound and are used effectively to encourage children whose first language is not English. Children are supported in their language development as the childminder also communicates fluently in their first language.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Effective relationships with parents ensure the childminder knows the children well. They receive care appropriate to their individual needs. Systems ensure these are discussed and recorded. Children receive warm cuddles and affection, and build trusting relationships with the childminder contributing to their sense of belonging. Sensitive arrangements ensure they are fully included in all aspects within the home. Children make active decisions about their play. They develop an awareness of the needs of others as they learn to share and take turns. They play confidently alone and socially and receive appropriate help if required. Children are learning about the community in which they live as they engage in local walks and various activities. Signs and symbols are displayed around the home to assist children in their early language development. A range of appropriate play resources provide opportunities for them to develop an awareness of other cultures, disability and the wider world in which they live. Children benefit from the childminder's continued efforts to attend appropriate training courses to improve play opportunities. Their language development is supported with the use of interesting and appealing multicultural story sacks. Children's behaviour is very good. They listen intently to each other, and the childminder, and are able to negotiate with each other to resolve some issues. They respond positively to the childminder's use of praise and encouragement to promote positive behaviour.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides. The childminder has high regard for the well-being of children. Time and opportunities are used very effectively in order to provide a high standard of care for the differing ages of the children attending. Arrangements promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. Space and resources are organised successfully, and spontaneous and well planned activities provide children with interesting experiences to broaden their overall development. Children are stimulated and play effectively, independently and with others. Comprehensive documentation is established to ensure children's specific needs are fully recorded. Children benefit from very good partnerships with parents who are fully informed of the service provided. Clear written and verbal communication ensures they are kept fully informed about their child's care. Secure arrangements ensure confidentiality is maintained.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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.
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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):

- ensure written parental permission is obtained for all children to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk