



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 252184 |
| Inspection date | 30 January 2006 |
| Inspector | Anne Walker |

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| 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 2000. She lives with her husband in the Ordsall area of Retford, north Nottinghamshire. There are shops, schools, a park and pre-school within walking distance. All areas of the property except for the bedrooms are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and is currently minding 4 children under 5 and 2 children before and after school. Children attend for a range of days and sessions. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. The family has a pet dog. The

childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

The children are provided with a range of home cooked meals. These have regard to providing a balanced diet for young children and ensure they have sufficient energy to participate in their play. They have vegetables as part of their main meal and are encouraged to try new tastes gradually. For example mashed swede is added to the potato topping of the shepherds pie. Fruit is often served as dessert or snack. Children have regular drinks of squash during the day to ensure they remain hydrated. Satisfactory arrangements are in place to ensure that children's individual dietary needs are known and acted upon.

Through daily routines and expectations, pre-school children learn about the importance of washing their hands after using the bathroom. They blow their nose on tissues that are readily to hand. This helps them understand how to safeguard themselves from the spread of germs. Other hygiene arrangements within the home are not adequate enough to safeguard children's health and prevent cross infection. Babies play on floor areas which are not clean. Insufficient regard is given to cleaning babies toys which have been on the floor and where the dog has been in proximity. A range of other toys are not clean. Poor arrangements exist for the hygienic changing of nappies.

Children have suitable opportunities to exercise and be active as they walk to and from school, nursery and other outings. This forms part of each day and helps them understand the benefits of walking as part of a healthy lifestyle. There is a satisfactory range of equipment in the garden which encourages their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children use the ground floor to play, rest and have their meals. Appropriate steps have been taken to minimise the risk of accidents to children in the home. The kitchen-diner is used for play and meals and children access this area safely because locks are in place on all cupboard doors and any hazardous materials are out of their reach. They are supervised appropriately to ensure their safety. Pre-school children begin to understand how to keep themselves safe because of the suitable explanations they receive, for example, why its not safe to run around indoors. They talk about road safety as they walk to and from nursery. Suitable steps are taken to ensure their safety when out walking. Babies are restrained in the pushchair, toddlers have a wrist strap and older children understand expectations set for them. Adequate strategies are in place to ensure the house and garden are secure and children cannot leave unsupervised.

Children access toys which are in an a satisfactory state of repair. They are suitable for their age so that they are not exposed to things which will cause them harm. Equipment such as the highchair and pushchair, are in good condition and babies are able to sleep and have their meals safely.

Children are satisfactorily protected from harm because the childminder has an adequate knowledge of her responsibilities with regard to child protection. However she is not familiar with the current government guidance. Although she knows whom to contact if there were concerns, the contact details are not readily to hand.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a suitable daily routine that has regard to their individual stage of development. It takes account of their need for play, rest and meals. The baby rests at home in the buggy during the afternoon. Pre-school children have opportunities to play at home and have a cooked lunch, before being taken to nursery. Good regard is given to developing children's independence skills in some areas. They enjoy spreading their toast at snack time and learning how to cut the toast into four pieces. Time and attention is given to supporting children at these tasks including providing them with suitable knives that they can manipulate easily. Children are eager to participate and show pride in their new skills. They keenly interact with their carer and readily seek her help and support. They show confidence in making their needs known, for example, if they need a drink or need to go to the bathroom. During everyday routines and some planned activities pre-school children learn to count, recognise and write numbers. They also develop awareness of initial letter sounds and show interest in beginning to form letters. Stimulating activities such as growing tomatoes and cress are provided for children. Less focus is given to activities and play materials for babies, in order to fully promote their development. There are a suitable range of play materials for all children. However, these are not organised effectively to fully promote children's independent and imaginative play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

A satisfactory range of information is generally recorded when children begin so that their individual needs and parents' wishes are clearly identified. Their well-being is promoted as the childminder has sufficient regard to these needs and aims to work cooperatively with parents. There are no written policies or information to inform new parents about how the business operates. Friendly relationships are established with parents through regular information sharing. This generally enables relevant information about such things as behaviour management or the care of sick children, to be discussed.

The children have good relationships with their carer and demonstrate a sense of trust. They respond positively to her suitable interventions to manage their behaviour so that young children are learning to share, take turns and use conventions such as

'please and thank-you'. Children have limited opportunities to learn about the wider world and the lives of others. There are currently only basic play resources and activities that support children's awareness of ethnicity, other cultures or disability.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Suitable arrangements are made to use the space in the house to ensure that children can play, rest and have their meals comfortably. Children's welfare and safety have been inadequately safeguarded because too many children under the age of five are being cared for at any one time. This in contravention of the requirements of the registration. In addition, a lack of knowledge of the requirements stated on the certificate and of the National Standard, with regard to the permitted adult to child ratios, is demonstrated. Attendance records are not effectively maintained to clearly show, on all occasions, which children were being cared for at any particular time.

Adequate information, for most children, is in place in order to identify their needs and parents wishes. Medication and existing injuries records are maintained but parents are not asked to sign to acknowledge any entries in these records. The childminder has failed to comply with a registration requirement to inform Ofsted of a significant event. A child was treated at hospital following an accident which occurred whilst in her care. A first aid certificate has been maintained and enables any minor injuries to be treated appropriately. Overall the childminder is not meeting the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection it was recommended that the childminder improve the information recorded on her attendance register and her knowledge of the procedure to be taken in the event of an allegation being made whilst a child is in her care. A suitable system to record children's attendance has been used but has not always been sufficiently maintained to demonstrate which children were on the premises at any given time. The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of her responsibility to notify Ofsted if an allegation is made whilst a child is in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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 that the required adult:child ratios stated on the certificate of registration are maintained at all times
- ensure that the daily attendance register shows accurately which children are being cared for at any given time and that it is maintained on a daily basis and that procedures are followed for the safe management of the setting with regard to notifying Ofsted of significant events.
- take positive steps to promote children's health through the effective use of good hygiene measures in order to prevent the spread of germs and infections

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 *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk