



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY309476
Inspection date 01 February 2006
Inspector Margaret Bryant

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 satisfactory. 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 July 2005. She lives with her partner and young baby in the east of Hull. The downstairs of the home is used mainly, with the upstairs used only for the overnight care of one child. There is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time, there are currently two children on roll. Children are taken on walks to the local park and the shops. The family have two dogs, a Chinchilla and cold water fish.

The childminder is a member of the local Childminding network and the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are received into a home where reasonable measures are in place to prevent children from infection and keep them healthy. Children learn about hygiene measures and how to keep themselves clean, to protect them from harm. For example, they visit the toilet independently and without prompting to wash their hands before and after their snack. Children also know about washing their hands after going to the toilet, because of germs. They have their own personalised towels on which to dry their hands and this helps them to feel a sense of belonging at the childminders. Hygiene in relation to the pets in the home is satisfactory. Older children cared for know they should not touch the litter tray at the bottom of the Chinchilla's cage. However, younger crawling babies and toddlers could easily access this without this measure of understanding. The childminder is, however, careful to tell parents about all of her pets and that they are healthy and well cared for.

Toys and resources, plus all of the equipment in use by children are very clean and in good condition. Children enjoy a smoke free environment too and the childminder has the Roy Castle Good Air Award for this fact, which she proudly displays for parents to see. This reassures them about the healthy atmosphere to benefit their children, with good ventilation in place too.

Children are provided with healthy snacks having a choice from a variety of fresh fruit. Food is provided in line with children's individual dietary requirements as well as their likes and dislikes. For example, children present speak of the ham sandwiches which they enjoy when at the childminders. Drinks are readily available throughout the day including water. Children enjoy walks to the local park where they benefit from the exercise which helps develop their physical growth.

The childminder has completed a relevant first aid certificate and feels confident that this will help her to cope with any emergency situations that may arise. She has a sickness and illness policy in place of which parents are aware. However, she does not have written permission from parents to allow her to seek medical help in case of an emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in premises where satisfactory measures are in place to protect children and keep them safe. The exit doors are secure and stair gates are in place. There are also locks on cupboards to deny children access to hazardous and toxic substances. However, children can easily access the cage where the Chinchilla

is housed and could easily touch her. Older children know how to keep themselves safe, including knowing about not touching the pet in its cage. However, younger children, including crawling babies are without this measure of understanding.

The extensive range of toys and play materials are all safe, most are newly purchased and meet British Standards. They are all in very good condition. There is appropriate fire fighting equipment in place including a fire blanket and working smoke alarms, to alert the childminder to any possible danger. There is also a fire evacuation procedure in place and a plan showing the escape routes. This is discussed with children, at their level of understanding, to help them to begin to understand about how to get out of the house safely in an emergency. Children know about taking care when out walking with the childminder and know they should always tightly hold the childminder's hand or the pushchair. This is to ensure their safety and overall wellbeing.

Children who need a rest have the opportunity to do so, with play activities arranged to ensure those children wishing to continue to play, can do so. This ensures there is no interruption to children who may either be sleeping or resting. The childminder can see the child resting and checks regularly to see if they are comfortable and their needs are met.

The childminder has the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures but her knowledge of these is limited.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from having an extensive range of toys and play materials to choose from. This provides them with the opportunity to self-select and increases their independence. They are encouraged in their play to develop their skills and senses and use their imaginations to extend their learning. For example, children deciding to have an imaginary picnic are helped by the childminder to set the table with the tea sets and gather the food together. Children are also helped to learn about colours, shapes and numbers through everyday play. The childminder is careful how she uses language to initiate this learning. For example, she asks children to pass the purple plate or the red book, helping reinforce their knowledge of colours. Charts displayed at child height, reinforce children's learning of numbers, colours and letters. Children are encouraged to learn and recognise the letters of their name. For example, they are asked to point to the letters with the childminder saying the sound. Many activities are educationally based with learning in mind and children's learning is reinforced in this way, through play. There are large floor puzzles with letters and numbers, for example. The childminder has good links with the local nursery which ensures she knows what stage children are at and how to extend their learning.

The availability of children to have free choice to initiate their own play, with support from the childminder, is supported by a routine. This is flexible and subject to change, but provides the opportunity for children to be engaged in planned activities. For example, outings to the local shops and park and special craft activities involving making things, for which prior planning are needed.

Children are involved in conversation and the childminder listens to their ideas with interest. They are relaxed and settled. Good, warm and caring relationships between the children and the childminder are much in evidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by a childminder who shows care and concern for their individual needs. This helps them to feel valued and included. They are given time and attention and begin to learn about the wider world. For example, the childminder has some positive images of race through resources. She also talks to children about the differences in people. She introduces them to the wider world through discussions and answering their questions from observations about life in general. The childminder answers children's questions as openly and honestly as she can. Children are well behaved and happy with lots of conversation between them and the childminder. Children receive praise in their play and encouragement to do well, which helps raise their self-esteem. The childminder is patient and shows kindness to the children, which as a result makes them feel secure and relaxed.

The childminder has developed good relationships with parents. This allows them to feel secure that their children are being cared for appropriately and according to their wishes. She has some written agreements in place with parents. However, she has no permission from parents to allow her to take children on outings, including in a vehicle.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a comfortable home, where space and resources are reasonably well organised. They can choose for themselves what they want to do. This helps develop their independence and sense of belonging. They receive appropriate supervision from the childminder who enjoys a good relationship with the children.

Documentation is in place as required and is stored securely when not in use. There are also some supporting policies and procedures which are shown to parents. However, these are not readily available and this includes the complaints procedure. The childminder has her certificate of registration on display and this provides reassurance for parents of her suitability to care for their children. Parents are kept verbally informed of how their children have been during the day and what they have done.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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 satisfactory. 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):

- obtain written permission from parents to be able to seek medical help for children in case of emergency
- develop knowledge of local area child protection procedures
- obtain written permission from parents to take children on outings, including in a vehicle
- develop systems to ensure parents are fully aware of the operational procedures, including complaints
- devise a risk assessment that gives proper attention to detail, ensuring children's overall safety and well being from being in close proximity to the Chinchilla.

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