



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	226753
Inspection date	26 January 2006
Inspector	Kate Bryan

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1988. She lives in a house in Leicester City with her husband and three children aged 14, 20 and 25 years.

Within her home children have access to the front room, back room, kitchen and toilet. The children also have access to an enclosed rear garden.

The childminder is registered for six children and has four on roll.

The childminder regularly attends a carer and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are satisfactorily protected from the risks of infection and cross contamination as they have individual clean towels daily and use sensible hygiene practices, such as hand washing, as part of their daily routine. However, the childminder does not use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to promote children's awareness of preventing the spread of germs by discussion. They, therefore, are not encouraged to be responsible for the promotion of their own health. Children are suitably cared for should they become ill and a written policy is in place which is shared with parents. However, the childminder does not currently have a first aid qualification which may delay appropriate care for children.

Children's routines are agreed with parents so that they have their needs for rest and sleep met in a consistent fashion which suitably promotes their emotional well-being. Children enjoy a satisfactory range of physical activities daily, for example, walks, which promotes their health and development.

Children have some awareness of healthy eating as the childminder discusses this with them as they take part in activities such as chapatti making. They have their health needs suitably met as the childminder works closely with parents to ensure that their dietary and physical needs are fostered. Children enjoy healthy snacks of fruit and the childminder prepares wholesome, home cooked food for them. Sound policies and procedures are in place to ensure that children's well-being and health are suitably promoted.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe in a warm, clean environment because the childminder has identified most risks and taken suitable measures to minimise these. Therefore, they are well protected from the risks of fire because appropriate detection and prevention measures are in place and children have practised an emergency escape plan.

Children are well protected when they are outside because the childminder is vigilant about their safety. They are made aware, by discussion, of safe road crossing practices which effectively encourages them to think responsibly about their own safety.

The home is suitably organised so that the childminder can monitor children in all rooms. This means, for example, that children can enjoy table activities in the back room and quiet time in the front room in safety. Children can make their own selections from a good range of easily accessible resources which promotes confidence and decision making, these are rotated for younger children to ensure they enjoy a range of experiences.

The childminder has a suitable awareness of signs of abuse but is not secure in her knowledge of who to discuss concerns with. This may lead to a delay in securing children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning to be skilful communicators because the childminder spends a lot of time talking to them. Words are repeated so that the children learn to connect them with objects both in English and Gujarati which ensures that children's individual language needs are well met. Younger children also enjoy the use of rhymes to help them develop their pre-speech skills whilst older children are encouraged to use sentences. This effectively promotes their confidence and self-esteem.

Children feel secure and valued because the childminder has very warm relationships with them. They happily engage in activities, such as drawing, and show the childminder this so she can join in. Children expect to be listened to, for example, a child's request for a biscuit was swiftly agreed so that the child felt acknowledged.

Children can make choices about their activities and there are many opportunities for child initiated activities, such as playing with building blocks or shapes, which they enjoy. This positively fosters their independence and self-assurance.

Children have satisfactory opportunities to develop their creativity and imagination as the childminder offers a suitable range of activities to promote this, such as craft work and baking. This allows them to explore different textures, such as chapatti flour, and encourages them to make meaningful connections between objects as they undergo changes in mixing and cooking. However, the childminder does not use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan for children's progress and, therefore, their learning may not be as effective as possible.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are warmly welcomed to the home and this enables them to feel a good sense of belonging and self-worth. Children have their needs suitably met because the childminder works closely with parents and uses satisfactory records to ensure this. Parents are spoken with daily so that the childminder is aware of the changing needs of the children which makes them feel valued. Children proudly take home work they have completed so that parents can share in their work and acknowledge their achievements.

Children learn about other cultures by discussion and by the celebration of a range of festivals. They also experience trips into the wider community, such as attending a carer and toddler group, which suitably fosters their awareness of the wider community. Children are positively encouraged to respect each other because the

childminder ensures they are cared for in an atmosphere where they have the same opportunities and are equally valued. Therefore, all children have equal access to all resources which ensures they develop good levels of confidence and self-assurance in their play and learning.

Children's behaviour is appropriately managed by the use of age appropriate strategies. Younger children are dealt with in a patient and firm manner which makes them aware of expected behaviour. This was demonstrated as the childminder asked children to share pens so that each could have a choice, they were also encouraged to use good manners. Older children receive 'time out' to encourage them to reflect upon their behaviour. The use of sensible house rules, for example, no hitting, provides children with acceptable boundaries that they use to satisfactorily regulate their own behaviour and develop self-assurance.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel safe and secure because they receive good levels of adult support. This also allows them to develop self-assurance as they explore the environment with confidence. Children are cared for in a home that is satisfactorily organised so that they are always under the supervision of the childminder both indoors and in the garden. This allows children to experience a suitable range of activities in different rooms and encourages them to make informed choices about what they wish to do. Therefore children can opt to have quiet time in the front room or enjoy a craft activity at child sized tables in the back room. Children's physical well-being is appropriately promoted by daily use of the garden or walks.

Children's welfare, learning and care are appropriately fostered by the use of sound policies and procedures which are shared with parents. However, the 'Birth to three matters' framework is not used to promote all outcomes for children which means their awareness of some issues, such as the importance of good hygiene, may not be fully developed. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to obtain written permission from parents to seek emergency treatment, to provide parents with the address and telephone number of Ofsted and to maintain records of attendance, accidents and outings. These have been actioned and enhance existing safety measures in place for children at the home.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents which they can see on request. The complaint 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):

- ensure that a first aid course is undertaken which includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- improve outcomes in being healthy, for children from birth to three, by using an approach in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- ensure that the Area Child Protection Committee procedures are complied with
- improve outcomes in enjoying and achieving, for children from birth to three, by using an approach in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- undertake to gain an awareness of the Disability Discrimination Act and how this impacts upon children with special needs.

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