



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY315323
Inspection date	28 March 2006
Inspector	Noreen Elizabeth Appleby

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 2005. She lives with her family in a house situated close to the town centre. There are schools, pre-schools and toddler groups nearby, as well as shops, parks and local amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes. Toilet and hand washing facilities are also on the ground floor. Minded children do not access any first floor rooms. An enclosed yard is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding six children; of whom five are aged from seven months to

seven years, and one child is over eight years of age. Two of the children are her nephews. The childminder caters for children who have special needs. She takes children to and collects them from local schools. She also takes younger children to a local toddler group.

The family has two pets: a cat and a dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminders Association. She maintains informal links with other local childminders.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home. They are beginning to understand the importance of sound personal hygiene practices, as they wash their hand before meals or after messy play activities, such as painting or gluing. Appropriate standards are maintained regarding home hygiene through a range of regular cleaning routines. Other sound arrangements also help children to stay healthy, such as suitable exclusion periods for sick children and appropriate arrangements for children who take ill. However, children's health may be compromised because disposable gloves are not available to minimise the risk of cross-contamination, for example, during nappy-changing or first aid treatment.

Children have daily opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise, such as regular walks, visits to local parks or physical play on the nearby football field. Pre-school children also enjoy regular opportunities to use the sensory room, hydro-pool or soft play equipment at the local toddler group. As a result, all children benefit from regular physical exercise and are gaining good control over their bodies.

Children's dietary requirements are fully discussed and agreed with parents. Babies' foodstuffs and formula milk are appropriately stored and reheated. All children receive regular drinks and a satisfactory range of healthy foodstuffs suited to their individual needs. Fresh fruit is always available. Children are encouraged to try varied and nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to them and meet their individual dietary needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for a warm, welcoming and secure environment, both indoors and out. Play space is suitably organised so children are able to move around freely and self-select activities and resources independently whilst remaining under the appropriate supervision of the childminder. Resources are suitably stored and set out in a way that encourages children to make independent choices. The childminder monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure that they are safe and appropriate for their ages and stages of development.

Adequate security measures are in place and relevant safety equipment is used to keep children safe, although, an exposed electrical socket may pose a potential risk to children. All children are developing a sound awareness of how to keep themselves safe. For example, they are encouraged to move around carefully indoors, as well as learning to use appropriate road safety routines and fire safety drills.

Children's well-being is adequately safeguarded in matters of child protection. The childminder demonstrates adequate knowledge and a sound understanding of her responsibilities whilst working within the local authority child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a broad range of interesting play and learning opportunities that are well planned to take good account of children's individual needs and daily routines. Activities build successfully on children's interests and extend their learning well. For example, babies enjoy exploring the play-mat or activity gym. They handle musical and tactile toys, passing them from one hand to another or putting them to their mouth. They enjoy the social interaction of the childminder and the other children, who encourage them to communicate, by making vocal sounds or using actions and body language. Older children thoroughly enjoy art and craft activities, such as drawing, painting and collage. They are developing fine motor skills as they learn to use small tools, such as scissors or glue spreaders. They talk enthusiastically about their finished work; some of which is proudly displayed. Some children enjoy imaginative play, using small world equipment. They also enjoy outdoor play, including going to the park, or using the ball-pool and the hydro-pool whilst at toddler group. Children are developing an appreciation for books; through looking at picture books, listening to stories and enjoying regular visits to the library. They enjoy songs and rhymes, which they readily perform during their play. All children are gaining a good range of new skills, such as developing language, social skills, imagination and creativity.

Children are very involved and interested in the activities. They are beginning to develop patience and good concentration skills. They play nicely together, sharing, taking turns and chatting with one another. The childminder obviously has a very good relationship with the children. She interacts enthusiastically with them, using good body language and appropriate speech. She takes time to listening to what the children say or using questions well to enhance and extend their learning and play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are thoroughly discussed with parents when they bring their child for introductory visits, thus helping them to settle in comfortably. The childminder is happy to work with other agencies and professionals in order to ensure children's continuity of care is well met. Children's information is shared well with

parents using formal contracts and agreements, as well as informal verbal feedback at the beginning and end of each day. Children's art work is also well displayed, thereby updating parents about what children have been doing, as well as giving children pride in their achievements.

Children have good opportunities to be involved in daily routines, for example, as they make suggestions or decisions about activities, meals or outings. They are developing a very good sense of community, differing abilities, other cultures and diversity through regular outings to toddler groups, the library, leisure centre, local parks and shops. Children are forming trusting relationships with the childminder and with each other. They move around confidently as they choose what they would like to play with. The childminder knows the children well. She is attentive to their individual needs and gives them good support, encouragement and praise. As a result, children are learning to behave well. They play cooperatively together, demonstrating kindness and consideration for one another.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's safety and well-being is given careful consideration. The childminder has sound systems in place for ensuring adult family members are suitably checked, and that children are appropriately supervised; both in the home and whilst they are in other group settings. Children enjoy regular, but flexible, routines and a suitably organised environment. Their play space is appropriately organised with a broad range of accessible learning opportunities and resources. As a result, children are properly supervised and supported, yet allowed to initiate and extend their own play and learning and to develop at their own pace. All children appear to be happy and well settled.

Children's records and other appropriate documentation are suitably maintained in line with National Standards, although registration arrangements do not clearly identify children's times of arrival and departure. Comprehensive contracts and agreements are maintained with parents to ensure children's personal information and care arrangements are continually updated. Relevant personal documentation is confidentially stored.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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 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 electrical sockets are made inaccessible to children
- ensure first aid treatment and nappy-changing arrangements minimise the risk of cross-contamination; for example, by using disposable gloves
- improve registration arrangements by recording children's times of arrival and departure.

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