



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	207340
Inspection date	03 March 2006
Inspector	Janice Broddle

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 was registered in 1999. She lives with her husband, who works as her assistant, and their 4 children aged 17, 15, 7 and 6 years. The family live in the village of Smalley, on the outskirts of Heanor, within walking distance of local schools and playgroups. All areas of the property can be used for childminding, although this mainly takes place on the ground floor with sleeping facilities within this area. Toilet facilities are on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has 2 pet cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time.

When working with an assistant, she is registered to care for 10 children at any one time. She is currently minding 5 children aged under 5 years, 3 of whom attend on a full time basis, and 2 children aged over 5 years, who attend after school, and during school holidays. The childminder has use of a mini-bus to take and collect children to school and for outings. She 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 warm home. The childminder's good cleaning routines and personal hygiene practices help to minimise the risk of spread of infection. She works well with parents to promote children's immediate welfare, for example, she has a written policy regarding children who are unwell and the administration of medication, and written parental consent regarding emergency medical treatment.

Children are well nourished. Young children eat in line with their own routines, and parents' wishes. The childminder provides fresh, home-cooked meals that are varied and nutritious. She has a good awareness of children's likes and dislikes, and plans her menus around these. Through the range of meals she provides, she ensures that children have the recommended daily 5 portions of fruit and vegetables.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their good health. They regularly play in the garden where they practise their developing physical skills using a range of equipment such as swings, slides, rockers, bats and balls. They also go on regular outings to local parks where they fly kites and play with larger equipment such as the parachute. In poorer weather, they access a local indoor soft play centre that provides opportunities for them to run, climb and balance on a varied range of equipment. The childminder establishes her daily routines around the requirements of individual children, and younger children are able to rest and sleep in line with home routines.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and welcoming environment. The childminder has a good awareness of safety issues. She has identified and minimised potential hazards to reduce the risk of accidental injury and children freely and safely move around their environment. The childminder has a range of policies and procedures in place that she shares with parents, and which contribute to children's overall safety. These include missing child and child not collected policies and comprehensive emergency evacuation procedures.

Children have access to a wide range of play equipment that is developmentally appropriate and of good quality. Toys are clean and safe, the childminder monitors this as she engages with children in their play and checks them at the end of each

day. She has a range of equipment in place to ensure children are safe when outside of the home, however, she does not have written parental permission to transport children in her vehicle, which could compromise their safety.

Children are well protected because the childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibilities with regard to child protection. She has a written policy in place that she shares with parents so that they are clear of her responsibilities, and has relevant contact numbers readily to hand if required.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in their environment. They have good relationships with the childminder and her family, and with each other. Young children gain in personal confidence through the high levels of attention they receive. Children confidently engage in play and are developing their independence through being able to freely select their play materials.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities. Babies and young children access a suitable range of age-appropriate toys, which encourage their co-ordination and newly emerging physical skills. Children's imagination is developing well as they engage in role play games, playing co-operatively together. They are beginning to develop an enjoyment of books through cosy reading sessions with the childminder. Regular visits to parks and indoor soft play areas introduce children to different environments and support their developing social and physical skills.

The childminder has a good understanding of children's individual needs and plans daily activities around these. This ensures that children eat and sleep in line with routines at home. The childminder is not yet fully familiar with the 'Birth to three matters' framework and is not yet using this to evaluate young children's progress in order to identify the next steps in their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in line with home routines and are valued and respected as individuals. They have good relationships with the childminder and her family and are fully included in the life of the setting. They are beginning to learn about the wider world by accessing resources that reflect positive images of differences. The childminder supports this well by organising additional activities, such as food tasting, to acknowledge different festivals. The childminder has appropriate systems in place to ensure that children with special needs are fully included in her provision.

Children's behaviour is very good due to the high levels of attention and support they receive, and the range of activities which keep them happy and occupied. The childminder has a good awareness of appropriate behaviour management strategies; she is calm and positive with the children, and they respond positively to her reward

systems. Older children play very well together and are able to share and take turns.

The childminder has a very good range of written information, which she shares with parents on admission. This ensures that they are well informed about her practices. She exchanges ongoing detailed information with parents to ensure all children are cared for within their usual routines. The childminder maintains written daily records for all children that she shares with parents, thus keeping them well informed about children's daily care and activities. Children benefit from this positive working relationship, which promotes continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has most of the required documents in place, however, she does not have confirmation in writing from parents, for her assistant to be left in sole charge of the children. She has devised a very good range of informative written policies regarding her practice, which she shares with parents and which promote children's continuity of care.

Children benefit from the childminder's good organisation of her space and resources. They mainly use the large playroom, which has space for them to comfortably eat, play and sleep. Children regularly access the well-equipped garden. Play resources are well-organised so that children can help themselves and younger children can easily reach a suitable range of toys. Children are comfortable and relaxed in the environment, which enables them to confidently express their needs and wishes. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provider agreed to 4 recommendations. She agreed to ensure that children do not use the garden until building work is finished. The building work is now complete and children are able to play safely in the garden. She also agreed to increase the range of multi cultural provision. The childminder has acquired an appropriate selection of toys and play materials which portray images of diversity, therefore improving children's awareness of differences and subsequently their ability to make a positive contribution. The other 2 recommendations related to nursery education and as she is not providing nursery education, these are no longer applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 there has been one complaint relating to National Standard 6: Safety, regarding use of a vehicle. Ofsted required the provider to respond to this complaint and found that she continues to meet the National Standards. The childminder remains qualified for 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):

- obtain written permission from parents, for the childminder's assistant to be left in sole charge of the children
- obtain written permission from parents to transport children in a vehicle
- improve the outcomes for children from birth to three by using an approach in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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