



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	258249
Inspection date	29 June 2005
Inspector	Justine Ellaway

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 1990. She lives with her partner and daughter aged 17 years in the Humberstone area of Leicester City. There are local shops and parks within walking distance. The whole of the ground floor and the upstairs bathroom of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five at various times and eight children before and after school at various times. The childminder takes and collects children

from Humberstone Infant and Junior Schools. The family has two dogs and two horses.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from opportunities to be active and engage in regular physical play in the garden, at local parks and on outings which promotes their physical development. Children have some understanding of their own personal hygiene, however this is not fully promoted, as they are not always encouraged to wash their hands.

The good health of all children is maintained when one becomes ill, as the childminder follows suitable procedures to protect them and keeps appropriate records. Children enjoy food and drink in adequate quantities, and are able to access drinks independently. They sit with other children and the childminder at meal times, which develops their social skills. They are not always encouraged to try, or offered a healthy option during snack and meal times, therefore the food is not always balanced and as a result children's understanding of healthy living is not fully promoted. Children's individual dietary needs are met, as the childminder obtains information from parents at the time of placement.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to play, eat and rest comfortably as the childminder organises the space sufficiently to enable this. Children understand which areas of the house they may use and demonstrate an awareness of safety issues. They are protected indoors as the childminder has reduced potential hazards and minimised risks. Their safety when on outings is promoted as the childminder undertakes checks and takes necessary equipment and contact details. Careful supervision in the garden ensures that children are kept safe when playing outside, and most potential hazards have been removed.

Children have access to a range of toys and equipment in good condition to stimulate their imagination. Older children can access these, extending their independence and decision making and younger children have a choice from a range that is varied on a daily basis. Children's welfare is protected as the childminder understands the procedures for reporting child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's self esteem is fostered as the childminder shows interest in what they do and engages in play with them, as a result they are occupied for long periods of time.

Children develop close relationships with the childminder, as a result they feel valued, and develop increased self confidence. They demonstrate confidence in selecting toys and activities, their decision making skills are promoted as they choose what they want to do.

A satisfactory range of play opportunities are provided, mostly involving free play with the toys and games. There are some opportunities for developing social skills and regular opportunities for outdoor play. Children's independence is sometimes encouraged through play and there are sufficient opportunities for younger children to extend their existing skills. Children learn about right and wrong through discussion and play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel valued and their self esteem is fostered, as the childminder gathers information about their individual needs and preferences from their parents. Children do not usually have opportunities to gain an understanding of diversity and the wider world, as there are limited activities and resources to promote this. Children with special needs are included and positive steps taken to meet their individual needs. The childminder acts appropriately, when she considers a child in her care may have additional needs, to promote their welfare.

Children behave well and appropriate strategies are used to manage inappropriate behaviour. Children understand the boundaries and benefit from a positive role model. Their good behaviour is encouraged by praise and the use of reward systems. Consistency of care is maintained through regular oral communication with parents, which enables children to feel comfortable and settled, however a clear written agreement has not been established with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is supported by the adequate organisation of time, space and resources. The premises are inviting to children and their parents to make them feel welcome. Children demonstrate confidence, appear settled and are happy to be in the presence of the childminder. The childminder organises her time to provide satisfactory play opportunities for all children. Their welfare is promoted and safety protected as the childminder has most of the necessary documentation in place. Suitable arrangements are in place to protect children from persons who have not been vetted. The provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to ensure that low level glass was made safe or inaccessible, this has been completed. The gate has been made secure so that children are unable to leave the garden unsupervised. Information

required to carry out vetting procedures on household members has been submitted. The childminder has purchased some resources to promote diversity, however these are insufficient and a further recommendation has been raised to address this. The childminder has developed and maintained appropriate documentation for the recording of accidents and is aware of the information required for the administering of medication.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 there are sufficient toys and resources that positively promote diversity and ensure that there is a written agreement with parents, which sets out the expectations of both parties, activities provided and business arrangements.
- Ensure that the garden is safe for children and that potential hazards are minimised
- Encourage and promote good personal hygiene and a healthy lifestyle with children.

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