

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	207468
Inspection date	18 February 2008
Inspector	Geraldine Barford
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 1995. She lives with her husband in Belper, Derbyshire. The whole of the ground floor, one bedroom and a bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. 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. There are currently six children on roll. When working with an assistant and another childminder she is registered for ten children at any one time.

The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network but does not currently care for any children who are in receipt of government funding for education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a comfortable home where they are encouraged to follow simple health and hygiene practices. They are given opportunities to develop their own knowledge about

personal hygiene as they are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Older children have designed a poster for the bathroom to remind younger children of the importance of good hand washing procedures. Children's health is usually promoted as the childminder obtains appropriate information from parents about children's individual health care needs and all the written consents are in place to support this. The first aid kit is stored appropriately out of the reach of children, but it has not been fully maintained as some of the contents are out of date and therefore may not be suitable for use. The childminder has attended first aid training and has accurate procedures in place to record accidents that happen at the setting but at present there is no system to record injuries that children arrive with. Children are protected from the spread of illness as the childminder has a clear policy in place, which she shares with parents, about the exclusion of children if they are ill. Medicines are stored appropriately and a record of all medicines administered to children is kept. However, although parents sign the record, it does not record the actual time the medicine was administered, and therefore children are not always totally safeguarded.

The childminder ensures that children learn about healthy eating as she provides them with nutritious snacks and meals, which feature lots of fruit and vegetables. Children have access to drinks to ensure they do not become dehydrated. All children are able to rest and sleep according to their individual needs.

A satisfactory range of physical play experiences contribute to a healthy lifestyle for the children. They regularly go out on walks to the local park and picnic area where younger children can use their 'ride on' toys and older children can run around in the fresh air. Visits to 'twisting tots' provide further opportunities to be active. In the better weather all children access the outdoor play areas in the garden which are well fenced to keep them safe, and they are always supervised. They have opportunities to use climbing equipment, a ball and paddling pool, a playhouse and other large toys. Younger children have space to move around indoors safely and the childminder provides a range of interesting toys to promote their physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment, where they can move around freely and independently under the childminder's close supervision. Children's safety is enhanced and the risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder has taken positive steps to reduce possible risks. For example, ensuring that all external doors are kept locked, using safety gates to exclude younger children from areas such as the kitchen and stairs and covering electrical sockets. Fire safety precautions are in place and the childminder has developed an emergency evacuation procedure to follow. This is practised with the children to ensure that they have knowledge about what to do in the event of a fire.

A suitable range of toys and equipment that meet safety standards are accessed by children. These are mainly stored in the lounge and a room used for 'messy' play. The childminder rotates the toys available indoors and outdoors, providing a range which is appropriate to the ages and interests of children attending. The childminder cleans and checks toys and equipment regularly. There is a child-sized table with benches and a breakfast bar with chairs that enables all children to sit together to enjoy snacks and meals. On outings the childminder uses reins and buggies to keep children safe.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted because the childminder has attended child protection training. She has a sound knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse and there are written child protection procedures in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and well-settled in the welcoming environment, which has some of their Chinese new year craft work displayed in the hall. They spend their time exploring the appropriate range of toys and equipment provided by the childminder based on her sound knowledge of child development. The childminder joins in with some of their play, supporting the development of their language and curiosity with conversation and imaginative play. For example, she helps the younger children to use battery operated toys and puts out the toy picnic set so that they can pretend to eat and pour drinks. Older children play chess, use computer software that promotes learning, dig in the sand, paint and draw. At times they sit with the younger children, looking at photographs taken at the setting and picking themselves and the other children out.

The childminder knows the children well and recognises their sense of achievement when they spread the tomato sauce and cheese when making a simple pizza or follow her request to put the books into the book box. Children are encouraged to take part in a variety of activities which ensures all areas of children's development are promoted and met. For example, they use sponges and potatoes to paint, make music with toy instruments and dress up in different costumes. Older children benefit from doing more challenging activities without interruption as the childminder has part of the main play area secured with a safety gate. Books selected by the children are shared with the childminder and they giggle when she picks them up to feel the ribbons on a mobile tickling their faces. Children confidently ask questions and use their initiative, for example, they ask for more snack, and independently access boxes to select the toys and resources that they want.

The childminder incorporates some aspects of the 'Birth to three' framework into her practice and has taken steps to develop her knowledge by attending training for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop an appropriate sense of belonging as the childminder knows them well and ensures they are all valued and included. The childminder has built stable relationships with the children and she respects their individual personalities. Children have equal access to toys and equipment that meet their particular needs so they can become confident and independent. The childminder has developed resources that reflect the wider, diverse society and children learn about festivals such as Diwali and Chinese new year when they bake special biscuits, make lanterns and taste noodles and spring rolls.

The childminder has a positive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She has limited experience of this, but would liaise with parents to provide the individual care required to promote children's welfare and development. She has accessed additional training, and would be willing to work with other agencies to further increase her abilities.

Children develop a simple understanding of responsible behaviour as the childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of suitable managing strategies and ensures they are developmentally appropriate. The childminder deals with behaviour in a calm and consistent manner. Communication with parents enables any behavioural incidents to be shared and means that a consistent approach is maintained. The children have devised a set of rules which are displayed in the hall and the childminder reminds them of the rules if any are broken.

Parents are able to share all the childminder's policies and procedures which ensures that children are looked after according to their wishes. There is a verbal exchange of information on a regular basis so that children's changing needs are met and to provide continuity of care. The childminder aims to build positive relationships with all parents and she makes them aware of how they can make a complaint and is aware of her duty to log complaints, should she ever receive any.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises the house to provide a secure and child friendly environment in which children can take part in a satisfactory range of activities to support their care, learning and play. Space and resources are suitably organised to provide children with a balance of interesting activities. The childminder generally follows acceptable procedures to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the National Standards which ensures children are satisfactorily protected. Appropriate checks are in place to ensure children are cared for by a suitably vetted person and children are never left alone with any person not vetted. The childminder has attended relevant training to support her registration and children's needs are met by suitable adult:child ratios.

Children's well-being is appropriately promoted by the documented information kept, this is organised so that children's details are kept confidential and the childminder ensures children are cared for in accordance with their parent's wishes.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to consider how she could use resources that reflect diversity more effectively to promote children's understanding of similarities and differences.

The childminder has developed a wider range of resources to ensure that they are age-appropriate for all children. She encourages the older children to sit in pairs and discuss the similarities and differences of the people portrayed in the books and jigsaws. She talks to the younger children about cultural differences and uses dolls, books and small world toys to demonstrate visually what she is talking about. Consequently, children benefit as they learn to value diversity.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- improve procedures for recording medicines administered to children by including the exact time that medicine has been given
- ensure that the contents of the first aid box are updated to comply with health and safety regulations
- improve the rigour of the accident recording with reference to children arriving with an injury.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk