

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	209090
Inspection date	12 February 2008
Inspector	Elisabeth Wright
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since February 2000. She lives with her partner and three children aged 11, 9 and two years. They live in a semi-detached house in Ruskington. Shops, parks, library and schools are within walking distance. The whole of the house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family have two dogs, a rabbit, a guinea pig and keep fish.

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 well cared for in a warm and clean environment because the childminder has suitable procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection. Children receive appropriate treatment in the event of an accident because the childminder maintains a current first aid certificate and ensures that parental consent for emergency medical treatment or advice is

obtained at registration. Children are beginning to learn the importance of personal hygiene, for example, they wash their hands before and after snacks, after using the toilet and after touching the pets. Children demonstrate how they use the soap to wash, ensuring they clean thoroughly between their fingers. The childminder has a sick child policy which is shared with parents and therefore the children do not attend when they are ill and are protected from the spread of infection. Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise which promotes their physical development and good health. They have good opportunities to enjoy physical exercise daily, using the garden in good weather or walking locally. Children also walk to and from school.

Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks which are provided to meet their individual dietary requirements. These include fruit, carrot sticks and raisins. The childminder discusses the benefits of healthy eating with the children in a way which is appropriate to their age and understanding. Older children are able to explain which foods are healthy and why and understand the importance of eating five portions of fruit or vegetables each day. Regular drinks are offered to the children to ensure that they do not become thirsty or dehydrated. Children generally attend part-time and bring packed lunches if they attend over the lunchtime period. The childminder discusses with parents the kinds of foods it is appropriate to send depending on what the child likes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is made welcoming for children and the space organised to meet their individual needs. Consequently they are able to feel relaxed and at home and have a sense of belonging. Generally the house and garden are secure, however, children's safety is potentially compromised as the childminder is not vigilant in ensuring that the upstairs windows are locked. An extensive range of toys and resources are well organised and accessible to promote children's independence and choice. Space is made for them to rest and relax and the older children have opportunities to play with smaller toys, for example space Lego, which promotes the safety of the younger children.

Children's safety is promoted as the childminder has taken steps to minimise possible hazards, for example, she makes daily checks of the house and garden and ensures that sharp knives and cleaning fluids are kept in locked cupboards away from the children's reach. Emergency escape plans have been devised and practised with the children; smoke alarms and a fire blanket are in place, which help towards keeping them safe. The children benefit from plans being in place to deal with a range of emergency situations, for example, the older children know if the childminder has an accident, to get help and ensure their own safety as arrangements are made with a nearby childminder. Children are also learning how to keep safe on the road as the childminder teaches the children to hold hands and cross roads safely. Although the childminder does not generally use her car, the safety of the children is potentially compromised if she did so in an emergency as her insurance does not cover business use.

Children are protected from harm because the childminder has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the correct procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time in the childminder's care, engaging enthusiastically with a range of activities. These include arts and crafts, music sessions, role play, construction, electronic games and relaxing whilst listening to music. They enjoy loving and caring relationships with the childminder, who spends time meeting their needs well. Children are well supported as they are given warm care and kindness to help them develop a sense of security and belonging. Consequently they interact well with the childminder and with each other.

The childminder has a good understanding of the individual needs of the children she cares for. Younger children benefit from her knowledge of 'Birth to three matters', which she uses to plan their activities and inform her understanding of their development needs and progression. She is developing her planning methods and has started to use some observations of the children which she shares with parents and uses to plan activities around their specific needs and interests.

The children benefit from a number of well-thought-out outings which widen their experience and help them to learn new skills. These include quad biking for the older children and mother and toddler group for the younger ones. As the childminder is part of a childminders' group the children also benefit from activities planned for the group, for example, fundraising activities for red nose day and a visit from the fire service.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of the children's individual needs and interests because she is proactive about gathering information at registration and talking to the children and their parents. This means that children enjoy a flexible routine that allows them good opportunities to play, learn and develop at their own pace. All children are treated with respect and equal concern by the childminder which is reflected in their relationships with one another which are supportive and caring. They are learning about the world in which they live as the childminder acknowledges the different festivals. The childminder also raises their awareness of cultural differences and people with varying needs through books and toys and use of the internet.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for any child and would welcome children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities into the setting, providing she could adequately meet their needs alongside those of the other children.

The childminder has clear boundaries for acceptable behaviour, which she applies consistently. This enables children to learn right and wrong in ways they understand, which also adds to their sense of security. Consequently children are well behaved and considerate. The childminder offers the children lots of praise and encouragement which develops children's self-esteem.

Children's welfare and development is promoted because the childminder values building good relationships with parents so that she can respect their wishes when providing good care of their children. Information is shared with parents on a daily basis about their child's general well-being and achievements. Clear policies are in place which are shared with parents and contracts ensure that the expectations of both parties are understood and accepted.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare, care and development needs are met effectively as the childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of caring for children. The organisation of space and resources enables children to move around freely as they choose toys, play, rest and eat comfortably. The childminder is committed to improving her practice and has undertaken a number of training courses to enhance her skills and knowledge for the benefit of the children in her care.

The required documentation is in place to support the care and welfare of the children. Records and documentation are well organised and kept appropriately with due regard for confidentiality. Children settle well because they feel safe and secure as their individual care, learning and welfare needs are fully promoted. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to consider the ways in which parents are informed of the policies and procedures of the provision. Good progress has been made. The childminder has compiled a file for parents which includes a wide range of policies and information on each area of care.

She also agreed to extend the range of resources to give positive images of a diverse society, promote equal opportunities and encourage anti-discriminatory practice to enable children to increase their knowledge of the wider world. Good progress has been made. The children have experience of a range of cultures and explore these using books and the internet as well as participating in a range of activities around celebrations.

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:

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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 car insurance covers business use

- ensure that upstairs windows are secure.

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