

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	252322
Inspection date	24 July 2007
Inspector	Patricia King
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 outstanding. 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 1996. She lives with one child aged 12 years in Kimberley, which is situated in Nottinghamshire. All of the childminder's home is used except for the first floor 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 currently has three children under eight children on roll.

The childminder takes children to local pre-school groups. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has excellent systems and practice to maintain a high standard of hygiene and care in her home. The home is scrupulously clean and robust policies and procedures ensure a healthy environment is provided, where thorough hygiene routines prevent the spread of

infection. For example, all children have their own washing and personal care items and are learning about the importance of using these properly to protect themselves against germs and infection. Posters, activities and resources such as books and activity sheets are used effectively to help children learn and secure their understanding of good self-care practices. Comprehensive procedures ensure that any accidents children have are managed appropriately as the childminder has sound knowledge of first aid, available first aid equipment and clear recording systems.

The childminder is careful to establish children's individual dietary requirements and works closely with their parents to ensure that a healthy balanced diet is provided for each child. They have lots of fruit and vegetables as snacks, and healthy drinking options, such as water, milk or fresh fruit juice ensures that their physical health is consistently well promoted. Children develop a considerable awareness of healthy eating through the imaginative use of activities, such as finding out about food values and preparing healthy snacks.

Children have daily outside play in the garden, weather permitting. They use outdoor equipment to balance and climb, ride on bikes and cars and develop their physical skills. Children are taken to the local parks and pre-school groups to play on other physical play equipment, such as soft play and ball pools. They relax and sleep according to their needs because the childminder plans her home and routines effectively, to offer opportunities for rest and quieter times. She is careful to ensure that individual sleeping routines are maintained and is vigilant to supervise sleeping babies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has given careful thought and consideration to ensure that her home is organised imaginatively and effectively to provide a secure, safe and stimulating environment. Children feel settled and confident to make choices from a wide range of high quality equipment and resources arranged to allow children to access these freely and safely, for example, toys and activities are stored within easy reach and child-sized furniture promotes independence and choice. Robust arrangements ensure the outside play area is safe and excellent security ensures children are not able to leave the premises unsupervised.

Children are well protected from risks because the childminder is vigilant about their safety indoors, outside and on outings. For example, children practice the emergency escape procedures with the childminder and follow effective safety procedures when outside the home. Their confidence and understanding of dangers within the environment is secured by activities that help them to learn how to keep safe and protect themselves. Excellent arrangements are established for outings including procedures to be followed in the event of a child becoming lost.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's clear understanding of child protection issues in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance and how to take any action required to protect children. She has established a clear written policy to ensure parents are fully informed of her responsibility to protect children from harm. The childminder ensures that children are only collected by their parents or named adults by prior written arrangements and children are never left alone with other adults.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has a comprehensive understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and the Foundation Stage of learning. Informed planning provides children with interesting opportunities to make active choices about their play and promote their learning. Excellent indoor and outdoor activities provide appropriate levels of challenge to build confidence and self-esteem. Children are highly motivated and make use of exciting and appealing activities to learn and extend their knowledge. For example, they have learned about people from around the world and are proud to show the displays of their activities and art work. Children are developing a good sense of place and enjoy talking about themselves, their families and pets as they look at the photo records kept for them in the playroom.

The childminder is adept at using daily routines and outings to support learning, for example, children identify signs, shapes, numbers and colours as they walk and travel around their local community. Children benefit effectively from a wide range of outings which include pre-school groups, soft play settings and local places of interest, such as Wollaton and Markeaton parks. This means they are learning about their local and wider communities.

Children are developing their independence as they dress their toys or themselves for outdoor activities and they smile with delight when their efforts are praised. They are learning about themselves, their right to be valued, listened to and become confident communicators by working together to establish an understanding of individuality and self-awareness.

The childminder takes great care to build positive relationships with the children which means they have a real sense of belonging. She is vigilant to find out what children can do and plans efficiently to ensure that they learn and develop well in her care. Children flourish in this caring, stimulating, creative environment where they are highly valued as individuals and respond positively to the childminder's consistent use of praise and encouragement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are learning about the community in which they live and the wider world through an extremely well planned and organised range of activities and resources. For example, they explore and value diversity and learn about life and cultural practices in other countries. The childminder is fully informed of current legislation relating to the Disability Discrimination Act and has a policy reflecting her strong commitment to ensure she provides quality care for all children. She shows good understanding of how to manage the situation positively when recognising any health needs, learning difficulties and/or disabilities and actively seeks information and guidance to support her in this.

A strong emphasis is placed on promoting positive behaviour and successful methods are adapted effectively to meet the ages and developmental stages of all children. This means that they are learning to behave well and respond positively to the childminder's consistent guidance and praise. The childminder skilfully promotes children's confidence and self-esteem by ensuring that they recognise and value their differences, which promotes a sharing and caring environment.

Children's care and welfare is thoroughly discussed and agreements are effectively established with the parents, which ensures that the childminder knows the individual needs of the children

extremely well. An excellent, close working partnership means that parents are well informed about their child's progress as the childminder speaks to them daily and all children proudly take home work they have created so that parents can share in their achievements. Parents are provided with a comprehensive range of procedures and information which detail how the childminder will ensure that children cared for receive an individual and stimulating service which allows them to enjoy activities and learn through play.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care learning and safety are positively promoted by the comprehensive set of policies, guidelines and information provided to parents. These ensure that documents and records necessary for the efficient and safe management of the provision are maintained. The childminder's home and resources are organised effectively and inspired activities provide children with interesting and exciting experiences to broaden their overall development

Children receive a high quality service because the childminder is self-motivated and proactive in seeking out further training and materials to update her knowledge. For example, she has resourced information and guidance to inform and support her services and uses this effectively in her daily practice. Parents are kept well informed and included in the care of their children by daily discussion which means they can contribute to their child's continued development. Children benefit from the childminder's unquestionable commitment to her role. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked have a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious which is discussed with parents. Children are well protected from risk of cross infection because the childminder has a clear policy that children will not be minded when infectious and parents are informed that this is part of their contract of services. The childminder was also asked to have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Children now have easy access to a wide range of toys and activities that help them learn about their own community and the wider world. This means they are able to identify and respect different lifestyles and practices.

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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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