

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	254739
Inspection date	15 January 2008
Inspector	Alison Putnar
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?

This childminder registered in 2000. She lives with her family in a house in the Bestwood area of Nottingham. Her home is within walking distance of local facilities such as shops, schools, playgroups and parks. The whole of the ground floor is available for childminding with toilet facilities at this level. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area at the rear of the property available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years, there are currently three children under eight on roll. Children over eight years also attend.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy as they are cared for in a clean and well-maintained home. They develop good hygiene routines through following secure practices. These include removing shoes as they enter the house and washing their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet. The childminder has good systems in place to ensure children are well cared for if they become unwell. A sick child policy is shared with parents engaging their support in reducing the potential

spread of illnesses by keeping children at home in the event of contagious illnesses. Children are well cared for if they have minor accidents as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. Clear systems are in place to record details of accidents and medication, ensuring continuity in children's care. Children are well nourished and their dietary needs are met as the childminder works well with parents. Snacks and refreshments are provided regularly. Older children begin to make healthy choices as they choose water to drink and have fresh fruit for a snack. Meals are prepared in accordance with children's needs and in conjunction with parental agreement. Packed lunches are served by the childminder at parents' request.

Children benefit from exercise and fresh air as they walk to and from nursery and school daily. They develop a positive attitude to exercise as they enjoy a range of physical activities in the garden; these include using wheeled toys, a slide, bat and ball games, and skipping. In addition children go on walks in the local community and visit green spaces for wider physical activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well-organised, child-friendly home. A spacious lounge offers children a good amount of space to freely play and rest in comfortable surroundings. In addition children access the kitchen/diner for creative and messy activities. Meals are served at the table to promote important social skills. An additional conservatory offers scope for wider play experiences. Toilet facilities are adjacent to the conservatory and support children's personal independence skills in managing their own toileting needs. Children have opportunities to play actively or access quieter restful activities. Younger ones sleep peacefully as required, through effective use of the space. Children have access to the garden for a wider range of stimulating play experiences. Children are encouraged to make choices in play, with very effective storage systems enabling them to easily reach and access the toys stored in the conservatory. The good range offers children of all ages a suitable choice fostering their enjoyment. Toys and equipment are of high quality and maintained in a clean and safe condition encouraging children's use. The childminder is very aware to ensure that toys are age-appropriate for those using them, further supporting children's safety.

Children appropriately learn about safety as they take part in fire drill practises and talk about road safety on the walk from school. The home is safely maintained and suitable for childminding purposes. Effective use of safety equipment helps to maintain the safe environment, stair gates and cupboard locks are in place. Children are supervised well by the childminder to further reduce the potential risk of accidents in the home. Children's welfare is protected as the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection procedures in relation to reporting concerns for children's safety. She has attended a basic child protection course to further develop her knowledge in this area, but, is less confident in her knowledge of procedures should allegations ever be made about her.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed as they enjoy good relationships with the childminder. They respond positively to opportunities to freely choose and select toys to play with. Children are active and interested in the toys available. They use their imagination as they act out familiar scenes when playing with a farm set. Younger children's confidence is raised as the childminder gets involved in their play. She reassures a child as he selects the next picture domino to place

during a game. Children's language skills progress as the childminder continually engages in conversations with them. Together they share books and talk about the pictures, enjoying the close contact this brings. Children demonstrate their sense of responsibility as they help to tidy away toys after they have played with them.

Children explore a varied range of activities during the day, some planned by the childminder. Good use is made of 'Birth to three matters' framework to support children in their earliest years. The childminder uses this as a tool to guide her in planning a range of play activities that cover many aspects of children's development. She has begun to observe children and note areas of their progress during play. The childminder is not yet fully at the stage of using these worthwhile observations to help her plan further activities to enable children to continue to build on the skills they already have. Good use is made of local community resources to extend children's experiences and develop their social skills. They mix with children of similar ages at a local childminder groups. Routines of the day are also used well to promote children's skills. They help prepare meals or snacks safely supervised by the childminder. Time is organised well to enable older children to relax and play quietly or to be active after a busy day at school. They choose to play in the garden or with the wide selection of available toys and craft resources. During school holidays wider craft activities are provided to further interest the older children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are settled in the friendly environment. This enables them to be confident to independently access toys and indicate their wishes. The childminder knows children well enabling her to communicate with those with less language skills, ensuring their needs are catered for. Children's good behaviour is positively and actively promoted as they are given regular praise and encouragement. The childminder takes time to help younger ones to develop important social skills of sharing and taking turns, through playing games together. Children begin to develop an awareness of acceptable boundaries and expectations for behaviour, as clear explanations are given. For example, a child fully accepts that after a short spell of watching a children's television programme it is time to do something else. The childminder has a suitable awareness of systems to support children with learning difficulties and /or disabilities, but, has limited experience in this area as yet. Good opportunities are created for children to learn about the wider world. They talk about special days and different festivals and take part in various craft activities, for example, children create Rangoli Patterns during Diwali. They learn about the lives of others as they have sponsored a goat for a family in Africa. Toys and resources that reflect positive images of our diverse society are provided, offering good discussion points for children to explore feelings and challenge stereotypes. All children are treated equally and encouraged to access all toys and activities.

Children's individual needs are met as the childminder works well with parents. Their personal details are comprehensively documented and the childminder takes note of parents' wishes and requirements. The childminder presents a professional service; she has developed a file of written information for parents which includes some details of policies and practices. This ensures parents are aware of the service available and enables them to make informed choices about their childcare arrangements. Effective communication systems are in place to ensure parents are fully informed of children's daily events. Information is shared verbally with written daily diaries also available.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare is promoted as the childminder presents a professional and enthusiastic attitude to her childminding. She had attended required courses including first aid and has achieved a Level 3 qualification in childminding practice. She strives to develop her knowledge and skills further, for the benefit of the children, through attending regular training events. Some of those attended include health and safety, child development and food hygiene. She continues to make good use of relevant support services to ensure she provides a good service, such as attending the local childminders group where she keeps abreast of any relevant changes in legislation.

Children are safe as the home is very well organised and household members are appropriately vetted. Suitable and flexible routines ensure that children access stimulating play, eat and rest according to their needs. Children's individual needs and parents' wishes are catered for as the childminder has developed good recording and communication systems. Children receive high levels of support and good quality interaction as suitable adult to child ratios are maintained. All records required for the safe and efficient running of the business are in place and stored in an organised and confidential manner. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to improve the presentation of play materials so that they were more readily accessible to young children to explore and investigate. The childminder has reorganised her storage facilities in the conservatory. Toys are now stored to enable children to see what is available and to reach and access those suitable to their age. As a result children freely make choices and are active and interested. In addition the childminder agreed to obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children. The childminder has reviewed her records and purchased a new system which ensures that relevant permission for administering medications are in place. As a result, all required information is recorded to ensure that children's safety and welfare is protected.

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 good. 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):

- refresh knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures, with particular regard to procedures for reporting any allegations made about childminders or their household members
- continue to use observations of children's play activities to plan and provide further activities to help children's development, enabling them to build on the skills they already have.

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