

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	254757
Inspection date	25 September 2007
Inspector	Lynn Dent
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 2000. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine and 13 years in the Wollaton area of Nottingham. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She takes children to the park. The family has a pet cat and goldfish.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to drinks throughout the day because the childminder ensures these are available from the breakfast bar in the dining kitchen. During school term-time the children eat sandwiches which contain protein, for example, ham and cheese. During the school holidays

the childminder provides a balanced diet, encouraging children to eat fruit and vegetables. Consequently, they develop an understanding of a healthy diet. Children's individual dietary needs and preferences are discussed with parents, however, this is not documented. Therefore, this information is not readily available and could potentially lead a child to eating foods which they are allergic to.

Children can explain that washing their hands removes germs which make them ill. Therefore, they participate in hygiene routines to help maintain their good health. Following accidents children receive appropriate care as the childminder has updated her training in first aid. Written consent is in place to seek emergency medical advice and treatment if required. Parents are contacted to collect their children when they are ill, particularly if they vomit. Consequently, this helps to prevent other children from infections.

Children can choose to play outdoors. They engage in ball games, hopscotch and skipping. The childminder ensures that children visit the local park where they have more space to run around. Consequently, they participate in activities they enjoy and help to promote their physical development. Indoors children use computer games, build with Lego and draw. Therefore, this helps them to develop their finer physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and safe environment. The childminder has implemented a suitable range of safety measures. The children are not allowed in the kitchen and cleaning products and sharp knives are stored inaccessible to them. Consequently, they can move freely around the premises, independently selecting toys and equipment which are in good condition. Children understand that they must not touch electrical sockets or jump on the furniture as they may injure themselves. Although the emergency evacuation procedure is discussed, it is not practised. As a result children under eight years do not have a sufficient understanding of this and cannot explain the action they need to take should this occur. Therefore, their safety is not fully protected.

During outings children learn how to cross the road safely using a pedestrian crossing. The childminder maintains constant supervision of children at all times. Consequently, they are protected from unknown adults. Children's welfare is maintained because the childminder can identify signs and symptoms of potential abuse and neglect. She is aware to record all incidents and can explain how to report concerns in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy in the childminder's care. They spend their time playing with toys of their choice. Therefore, they are learning to make choices. The childminder takes time to find out what children like to do and provides activities and play opportunities to support this even though they are in the childminder's care for a short period of time after school. As a result, during school term-time children are collected from school, eat a snack and tend to play on the Playstation, with a Gameboy or read a book before going home. During the holidays they participate in a sufficient range of activities. Children explain that they visit the park, play in the garden, enjoy sticking and craft activities and make feeders for the birds. They state that

they like playing with Polly Pocket, games, building with construction sets indoors and playing ball games in the garden.

The childminder makes herself available for the children. Consequently, they approach her for advice and help when struggling with a game. Children are encouraged to develop their own play and the childminder talks to them about what they are doing. The children are using a Playstation. They explain how the game works and show they can share as they take turns. Children's imagination is encouraged as they make choices about what to do and what materials to use during craft activities. Children's individual needs are met because the childminder works with parents to address these. For example, access to the pet cat is limited for children who may be allergic to fur.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has established sensible house rules, such as no jumping on the furniture and taking off shoes when playing indoors. Consequently, children are learning to take responsibility for their own behaviour. Children's unacceptable behaviour is suitably managed by using appropriate strategies. The childminder uses discussion to help children understand why their behaviour is unacceptable or they are withdrawn from the situation and an alternative activity offered. Good behaviour is promoted through praise and the childminder encourages all children to play games so that they learn to share and take turns.

Children learn to understand the wider world in which they live through discussions and by participating in a range of activities, for example, celebrating Christmas and Chinese New Year. Children can access a suitable range of toys and resources that promote diversity and cultural awareness. Children are treated with respect and kindness. Consequently, they feel valued and confident and show this to others.

Children's individual needs are identified and accounted for as the childminder works with parents and children to get to know them well. The childminder ensures she speaks to parents daily about their children's progress. Children are kept safe because they are only released to authorised adults who are known to her. Children understand the daily routines therefore they develop a sense of belonging and security. The childminder shows an appropriate understanding of how to manage situations positively when recognising any health needs or learning difficulties and/or disabilities of minded children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her home to provide a welcoming environment. Therefore, children are settled in her care. They have comfortable areas to rest or sit quietly and have space to play and complete activities. The organisation of the home ensures children are kept safe and are always within sight or hearing of the childminder. All adults in the household have been Criminal Record Bureau checked and cleared and the children are well protected from visitors because the childminder checks their identification on arrival.

The childminder does not use a car but may occasionally use public transport. This is agreed verbally with parents. However, there is currently no written consent to transport children in a vehicle. This consent is required to ensure that parents' wishes are met. The childminder has a current first aid certificate which ensures that they receive the appropriate treatment following

accidents. Children can easily access a range of resources as they know where these are kept. Therefore, they develop a sense of belonging. Overall the children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that accident records are sufficiently detailed and to provide activities that promote equality of opportunity. The childminder has taken the appropriate action to meet the recommendations. Accident records are detailed in accordance with the National Standards. Therefore, the necessary information about accidents and the treatment their children receive is available for parents. The children participate in a range of activities throughout the year that promote differences in the world around them. Therefore, they develop an understanding of those who may be different to themselves.

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):

- ensure that information about children's dietary needs is recorded
- practise the emergency evacuation procedure
- obtain written consent from parents to transport children in a vehicle.

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