

Rhonda Durkin

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	309124
Inspection date	07 March 2007
Inspector	Cynthia Walker

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 2000. She lives with her husband and three children aged 11, eight and four years. The family live in a large end terraced house which is within easy access of Colne town centre. Children have access to the ground floor which includes the kitchen and two living rooms. They also have access to a designated playroom, bathroom and bedroom on the first floor of the premises. There is a small fully enclosed area available for outside play.

The childminder visits the local toddler groups on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and has regular contact with other childminders in the area. She is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding three children, of whom, two are full time and the other is part time.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well nourished and enjoy a variety of nutritious snacks and cooked meals which incorporate a broad selection of fruit and vegetables. The childminder displays her weekly

menus for parents and these have flexibility to fit into the children's routines and activities. Children enjoy sitting together as they eat their lunch of sandwiches, grapes, bananas, apple and yoghurt. Although drinks are offered at snack or meal times, they are not available within the first floor playroom. There are systems in place to record the children's dietary requirements to ensure their individual needs are met.

Children are developing a good understanding of personal hygiene as they wash their hands after going to the toilet and before they eat their snacks and meals. After lunch the children collect their towels and their toothbrush and with support confidently clean their teeth. The childminder demonstrates that children are cared for appropriately if they have an accident or need medication because she follows the appropriate procedures. Discussions with parents establish the children's need for rest or sleep which the childminder sensitively implements. A written procedure is in place to support children if they are ill. Younger children are developing emotional well-being through loving and caring relationships.

Children enjoy physical activity through daily walks to school and walks within the local area. This is extended by visits to the park and outings to local places of interest. Children access large equipment when they visit toddler groups twice weekly. The childminder uses her small outdoor area actively during summer where children are able to access a playhouse and sand pit. She takes equipment, such as tunnels, into an adjacent field to support their physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, secure environment where risks are identified and minimised, which enables children to move safely and independently within the home. Detailed risk assessments are completed on a weekly basis to reinforce the children's safety. The childminder is developing the children's understanding of safety within the home by giving clear explanations on how to go up and down the stairs. Children's understanding of fire safety is promoted by monthly fire drills and clear plans to identify evacuation procedures on both floors of the childminder's house. There are thorough systems in place for the safe collection of children from the childminder's.

The areas used for children's play are creatively arranged and include attractive displays of children's art work and photographs of children participating in activities. This gives the children a sense of belonging and ensures it is a welcoming environment to play and learn. Children access a good range of resources appropriate for the ages and stages of children being cared for, which actively support their learning and development. Resources are accessibly arranged to encourage children to make a range of independent choices. The childminder maintains the safety of resources by regular checks.

Children's welfare is effectively promoted with the childminder's sound understanding of child protection procedures which are in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The childminder has developed a policy on child protection which she shares with parents and has attended relevant child protection training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are interested and involved in a wide range of activities which encourage them to develop new skills. The childminder has developed a weekly planner which highlights the variety of activities being offered to children. Weekly visits to the local library enable children to participate in 'story time' and then select a range of books to take back to the childminder's. Displays of artwork within the home and files of children's work demonstrate that children have been involved in a variety of sticking and painting activities. Children's experience is supported by visits to local toddler groups and visits within the local area.

Children are enthralled with a session labelled 'nursery time' where individual children select an item out of a bag linked to specific rhymes, such as 'two little dicky birds or this little piggy,' which the children sing enthusiastically. They enjoy listening to stories and explore the illustrations looking for particular items under the flaps, such as the teddy bear. Children are actively involved in the decorating of wooden spoons with a selection of craft resources. The childminder skilfully adapted this activity by enabling younger children to use the felt pens to colour simple pictures. Children use good concentration as they complete a memory game where they match pairs of cards together. They play harmoniously together, taking turns and counting how many pairs they have at the end of the game.

The childminder's effective interaction and sensitive questioning supports children's learning, for example, counting and matching shapes. She actively praises children for their achievements, for example, as they complete their wooden spoons, and responds positively throughout their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well in response to the sensitive and consistent responses from the childminder. She skilfully distracts children and maintains their interest in play by introducing new activities. Children play cooperatively together at both the craft activity and matching game as they share and take turns. They show sensitivity for other children as they help others achieve as they find pairs in the matching game. The effective implementation of strategies in response to particular behaviour, including the active involvement of parents, has enabled children to successfully resolve their problems. Younger children are developing self assurance from exploration within close relationships.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children receive appropriate support whilst in her care. Very detailed information is gathered from parents relating to their children's individual needs and routines as they begin their care. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept well informed about all the relevant policies and procedures. The ongoing needs of children are shared through the childminder's effective daily diaries and reinforced verbally as children are collected.

The childminder provides a good range of resources to support the children's understanding of diversity which include dolls, jigsaws, books, small world figures and table games. Activities linking to the customs and beliefs of the children present and those from other cultures are included in the planned programme.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

A good range of documentation is used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children which includes a detailed professional file. This includes a wide range of policies and procedures which actively work in practice, for example, behaviour. All the children's records and relevant information is kept in individual files. The childminder organises her home effectively, which enhances the children's play and learning. Thoughtful management of time, including visits to other groups, broadens the children's learning experience. Involvement with the local childminding network ensures her practice is regularly monitored and reviewed. The childminder's positive attitude to training to improve her knowledge and practice reinforces her quality of care.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder was given one recommendation in relation to permissions for emergency medical treatment. At a subsequent visit the childminder received an action in relation to the recording of children's attendance.

Written permissions have now been obtained from the parents for emergency medical advice or treatment, which is promoting the health of the children present. The children's attendance register is being completed daily to maintain the welfare, care and learning of children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since last inspection Ofsted received one complaint relating to National Standard 11: Behaviour. An Ofsted inspector visited and no actions were raised as a result of the complaint. However, following the investigation visit a separate action was raised regarding National Standard 14: Documentation. Ofsted was satisfied that the provider remains qualified for registration.

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

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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 fresh drinking water is available to children at all times.

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