

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY216175
Inspection date	10 May 2007
Inspector	Melanie Cullen

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 was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and three children aged ten, eight and four in Raunds, Northamptonshire. The whole ground floor and the bathroom and one bedroom upstairs are used for childminding. The back garden is not currently used for outside play. The family has a rabbit. The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding three children on a full and part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's continued good health is promoted because the childminder has high standards of cleanliness in her home and follows effective practices to ensure these high standards are maintained. For example, floors are cleaned each day and again during the day if necessary, kitchen and bathroom surfaces are thoroughly cleaned and toys and equipment are washed regularly. Children are protected from the risk of cross-infection during nappy changes because the childminder wipes the changing mat with anti-bacterial spray, washes her hands and double wraps nappies in readiness for laundering. Children receive prompt, appropriate treatment in

the event of accidents because the childminder has a current first aid certificate and a suitably stocked first aid kit is kept in an accessible place in the kitchen. A travel first aid kit is taken on outings. Accidents and any medication administered are recorded and signed by parents. Children begin to learn about good personal hygiene procedures because the childminder helps them to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating and after messy activities. They begin to learn about why personal hygiene is important because they talk with the childminder about 'germs that may give them a tummy ache'. Children are learning about self care through topics where they learn about taking care of their teeth. Children take part in a variety of activities such as cleaning their teeth, playing with games involving teeth and colouring pictures showing aspects of dental care.

Children enjoy packed lunches and snacks provided by their parents or the childminder. Children sit together and eat a variety of healthy foods including fruit and vegetables. They are involved in the preparation of food such as pizzas and sandwiches, they choose toppings and fillings and spread the bread. Children begin to learn about different foods and tastes because the childminder plans topics about food. They play with pretend food and a play kitchen, they have taste sessions of different foods, participate in baking activities and grow cress seeds.

Children enjoy fresh air and outdoor play because the childminder takes them for regular walks around the local area. They also visit country parks which have space to run around, follow nature trails and use fixed equipment that promotes skills such as balancing and climbing. Indoors children have opportunities to manipulate puzzle pieces, construction toys and they use tools to explore the play dough.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is given high regard by the childminder who is pro-active in maintaining a safe environment. For example, a safety gate is in place across the stairs, cupboard locks are in place in the kitchen and the front door is kept locked with the keys accessible. Children begin to learn about emergency evacuation procedures because the childminder has devised escape routes and practises emergency evacuation drills each month. Children stay safe when out walking because the childminder is aware of their abilities and takes appropriate action such as transporting younger children in a buggy and a wrist strap for an older child. Children begin to learn about road safety. They have participated in a topic which involves a suitable website and talking with the childminder about looking and listening for traffic. Children are supplied with a printable certificate when the topic is complete. They are safe when they sleep because the childminder uses a listening device and regularly goes to check on them.

Children enjoy playing with a wide range of play materials and activities which are safe, suitable and cover all areas of development. Children are interested in the play materials because they are stored in low-level boxes which encourages them to select themselves and to help tidy away when they have finished playing. The childminder rotates toys regularly and shares items with other childminders to provide children with different experiences. Children enjoy looking at books and puzzles which are always available.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder is fully aware of the need to record and report any child protection concerns and to maintain confidentiality when managing such issues. She has the Local Safeguarding Children Board's guidelines in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy attending this welcoming setting and quickly settle to play. They have free choice of a suitable range of play materials that are interesting and fun. For example, children enjoy a play dough activity. They use the tools such as cutters and rolling pins and explore the feel and texture of the dough by squeezing in between their hands and pushing it through the tools to make long sections of dough as it appears through the holes in the tool. Children wrinkle their noses and laugh at the experience of playing with the dough. They enjoy looking at books with the childminder. They sit on her lap and listen to the story or talk about what is going on in the pictures. Their vocabulary is developed and extended because the childminder asks them what they can see and praises their efforts enthusiastically. Children's individual needs are effectively met by the childminder who knows them well and is able to anticipate their requirements for different activities or rest.

Children's confidence and self-esteem is promoted by the childminder who provides high quality interaction and an interesting variety of outings, activities and play opportunities. The childminder does not currently use her back garden to provide outside play activities for the children. They do enjoy outdoor activities and physical play however, these opportunities can be extended upon to further promote children's enjoyment of outdoor play. Topics are used to focus on a particular issue such as dental health and food. The childminder is skilled in extending the topics throughout the children's experience via play materials, art and craft, books and research on the internet. Children benefit from the childminder's organisation through the written plans of activities, observations recorded and samples of their work that is stored in each child's folder as well as shared with parents to show their achievements.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individuality is respected in the childminder's home. She understands each child's differing needs and balances these effectively. Careful and thorough discussion with children's parents contributes to their well-being and enjoyment. The childminder creates an environment that is child friendly and welcoming which helps children to develop a sense of belonging. For example, children know the routines of the day and are secure in the knowledge that there are plenty of activities and one to one time available from the childminder. Children are encouraged to make choices and decisions about their play, activities and food which develops confidence. A wide range of play materials and books are available that show positive images of diversity. Children begin to learn about the wider world through discussion with the childminder and taking part in celebrations of festivals including Christmas, Diwali and St. Patrick's Day. The childminder is creative when sourcing items linked to activities about other countries such as India. All children are welcomed to the setting following discussion with their parents to ensure the childminder is able to meet their needs effectively.

Children generally behave well. They are aware of the boundaries the childminder has in place and only need occasional reminders to be careful and to think of others. The childminder is consistent in her management of behaviour and ensures that children understand why certain behaviour is unacceptable. She effectively uses strategies such as explanation and distraction and encourages children to apologise when they have had a short time to think about what they have done. Children respond to this consistent approach and return to play alongside each other. Children benefit from the good working relationships between their parents and the childminder. They are provided with written and verbal information every day about how their

child has been and are encouraged to share information from home. The childminder has a suitable system in place to record any complaints that may arise from parents in relation to the National Standards.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's enjoyment, care and welfare are promoted in this organised, friendly setting. The childminder organises her childminding arrangements to ensure she is able to meet everyone's needs effectively. The space available is planned to allow a variety of activities to take place at the same time and all the required documentation is in place and kept up to date. The documentation is reviewed on a regular basis and updated as necessary. Children benefit from the childminder's interest in keeping her knowledge up to date and her daily activity with children is reflected in the written policies and procedures she has devised and implemented.

The childminder has developed an effective working relationship with the parents and ensures they are provided with sufficient information about their child and encourages them to share information from home which contributes to children feeling settled in the childminder's home. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to carry out regular emergency evacuations. A written floor plan and clear procedure have been devised and children practise evacuation drills each month. She also agreed to keep records of daily events which are shared with parents. The childminder ensures that each parent receives verbal feedback every day when they collect their children. Parents of younger children also receive written diaries of activities, food intake, nappy changes and sleep times. The childminder also agreed to keep written records of medication administered to children that are signed by parents. Medication record forms are in place for each child that are signed by the parents on the same day. Parents provide written consent before any medication is administered. The action taken promotes children's safety, the partnership between parents and the childminder which has a positive impact on children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 01 April 2004 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):

- continue to develop outdoor play and physical activities for children.

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