



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY292913
Inspection date	10 June 2005
Inspector	Susan Andrews

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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged seven and four years, in Hinckley in Leicestershire. The whole ground floor and the children's bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor of the childminder's house is used for child care and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one children under five.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She is a member

of the National Childminding Association. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group takes children to the local library, leisure centre, shops and park.

The family has two dogs, two fish and two rabbits.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is safeguarded as an excellent standard of hygiene is maintained and the risk of cross infection is minimised. This is achieved by the systematic cleansing of toys and equipment and with individual items provided for children such as towels, flannels, disposable wipes, combs and hair brush. Effective practices are in place that support children's personal hygiene and children have a clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after handling family pets and after using the toilet. Good quality documentation is maintained regarding the administration of medication and recording of accidents, which supports children's well-being.

Children enjoy the fresh air and physical exercise by walking to the local schools, shops, parks. They learn about the importance of activity in a healthy lifestyle, They join in free play in the garden to develop their physical skills through use of swings, slide, trampoline, wheeled toys, ball games and gardening.

Children are provided with a nutritious diet that includes lots of fresh fruit and vegetables and where drinks of water, milk and fruit juice are freely accessible. Children eat their meals in a relaxed social environment where they learn about the value of good nutrition and where healthy eating is promoted.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have sufficient space to play, explore and learn in a home that is kept safe and secure, as careful attention is paid to health and safety issues and the childminder is vigilant in identifying and minimising any risks to children.

Children play safely with toys and use equipment that is appropriate to their ages and stages of development. The garden is safely enclosed, free from hazards and appropriate fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms are in place in the home. Fire evacuation procedures have been devised and practiced.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues and reporting procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are enthusiastic and confident as they have good access and make choices between a variety of toys, books and activities that help to develop their curiosity, imagination and language. However the younger children's stage of development is not being assessed and the childminder does not effectively plan for their development and is not familiar with the birth to three matters framework.

Children are involved in messy and creative play, celebrating birthdays, go on outings to the soft play area and walks to the park, library, shops and school.

Children have first hand learning experiences, gardening planting and growing seeds, baking and household chores such as tidying up helping to peg out washing on their own little washing line.

Children use a range of equipment that builds independence and develop their skills such as hand washing using steps stools and individual towels. Children behave well, and consistent and sensitive strategies are in place to ensure children know what is expected of them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a feeling of belonging, for example they have a place for their own towel to hang, and a space in the garden to plant and grow their own seeds. Children are taken to local community resources such as the toy library, lending library, leisure centre, parks and shops and the childminder contact group. Parents are kept verbally informed of children's activities on a daily basis.

Children play with a range of resources that reflect positive images regarding culture, gender and disability for example, play equipment that shows a child in a wheelchair, adults and children wearing glasses, multilingual books, ethnic doll, and puzzles that reflect non stereotypical gender images.

Children behave well, they are at ease and aware of what is expected of them for example saying please and thank you, the older child helping the younger. The childminder has strategies in place, that encourage children to negotiate, take turns and respect the feelings of others.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's records and the required information which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place. Contractual arrangements and permission from parents is kept up to date and stored securely. The organisation and record keeping supports the childminding service and contributes to the consistency of care for the children.

Children feel at home, they have a sense of belonging and are at ease, Children are cared for in a sensitive and gentle manner and children are happy and comfortable in the childminder's care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- improve knowledge and understanding of the needs of children under three years, for example through the use of the Birth to Three framework
- ensure that the childminding registration certificate is displayed during the hours of operation

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk