



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY293186
Inspection date	15 January 2007
Inspector	Silvia Richardson
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 2005. She lives with her husband and three children aged 21, 16 and 10 years. They live in a house close to shops, parks, library and public transport links.

All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and may care for six children when working with the childminder assistant. The childminder is currently caring for two children aged seven years after school on a part-time basis.

The family has no pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children relax and play in clean and comfortable home, promoting their health and welfare. They are encouraged to follow appropriate routines, so that they adopt good personal hygiene habits, such as hand washing before meals and snacks. Children understand how to minimise spread of infection, because the childminder talks to children about how to be healthy.

Children are developing their understanding of healthy eating, because the childminder offers fruit every day and discourages children from eating too many foods that are less beneficial, such as crisps. Children understand that drinking plenty of water is good for them, together with daily fresh air and exercise. The childminder encourages children to be active through outdoor play, including trips to the park and walks to and from school.

Children's health and welfare are adequately promoted through the childminder keeping appropriate records and ensuring she has written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Children receive appropriate treatment should a minor accident occur, because the childminder is trained in first aid procedures. Children's welfare is compromised though, because the childminder assistant hasn't completed a first aid course and may at times have sole charge of children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and move around safely, because the childminder takes suitable precautions, such as ensuring cleaning fluids and medicines are kept out of child reach. The childminder is vigilant and safety conscious, so that potential hazards are minimised, such as making sure electric wires are safe and small toys and toys with small parts are not available to younger children. Fire safety precautions include smoke detection and a fire blanket wall mounted in the kitchen, so that the childminder can respond quickly in the event of a fire. The childminder has thought about how to evacuate the premises in an emergency, but needs to talk to the children about this, so that they know what to do to stay safe.

Children are learning how to stay safe when walking to and from school, because the childminder talks to children about road safety. They know how to look out for vehicles and all cross roads together, holding hands to help them stay safe. Children understand safety rules in the home, such as walking and not running about and are learning to be aware of others. The childminder sits with the children while they are playing, making sure they use toys and equipment safely and appropriately. Children are kept safe and protected should safeguarding concerns arise, because the childminder knows who to phone if she is worried. The childminder may not make a proper referral though, because she does not have the appropriate written guidelines from the local authority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy activities both in and outside of the home, as these are well balanced to meet their active play, learning and leisure needs. They make regular visits to the local library, encouraging children to enjoy books. Children play very happily outside, especially during summer months, enjoying ball and other games in the garden as well as playing in the park. After school children are generally tired and like to relax in the living room and watch television for a while. Children enjoy a light tea and then help themselves to the toys and activities available, occupying themselves purposefully and constructively. Children enjoy boxed and board games and the childminder sits and plays with them helping them to ensure fair turns.

Toys and play materials are fairly well organised and sorted into sets, so that school age children can easily identify what there is to play with. A range of creative materials is offered, such as paint, colouring pencils and paper, so that children can express themselves artistically. There are very few suitable play resources for pre school children and babies, to support their learning and development. This is because the childminder is not currently caring for this age group, but wishes to in the future. The childminder understands the needs of younger children and is willing to add to her play provision to ensure these are met appropriately.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children behave well, having positive relationships with the childminder, because she speaks calmly to them. Children are respected and valued, helping them to develop a sense of belonging and to feel 'at home'. Children get along well together and play co-operatively, because the childminder provides appropriate levels of support and supervision.

Children's individual needs are met, because the childminder works well in partnership with parents. They use contracts to agree care arrangements and discuss children's progress regularly, promoting their welfare. Parents give written permission regarding collection of children, administration of medication and seeking emergency medical advice or treatment, so that proper consent is in place, meeting children's health and welfare needs.

The childminder is prepared to accept children with specific needs or disabilities, but currently has none on roll. Children's religious and cultural needs are met, because the childminder has much respect for differences. Some play resources reflect diversity and promote positive images of differences, so that children develop understanding and respect for others.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder, her husband, who works as childminder's assistant and their two sons aged 21 and 16 years are properly vetted, ensuring their suitability to work with and be with children. The childminder is working to the conditions of her registration, as she notifies Ofsted of changes as appropriate, including childminder assistants. Suitable records are kept, including written agreements with parents, accident and medication details and daily register, accounting

for the times children are in the care of the childminder. Records are kept confidentially in files, although these are not very well organised, so the childminder can not always locate details of individuals quickly and easily.

The childminder is becoming more organised in her planning and preparation of childminding activities, so that the needs of children on roll are appropriately addressed and met. Children have freedom of movement around the home, because areas are safe and accessible to children, so that they can relax and enjoy their time in the setting. Children enjoy being part of the family, with meals, snacks and drinks being served in the well arranged and spacious dining area of the kitchen. Children have lots of space to spread out, relax and play in the living room, because it is well organised, clean and comfortably furnished. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has informed Ofsted about employing an assistant, so that they may at times agreed and confirmed in writing by parents, leave an assistant in sole charge of the children. The childminder plans activities and play opportunities to develop children's all round development, organising toys into sets so that they are accessible and children have some variety and choice. The childminder has obtained a copy of the National Standards for Childminding, so that she can ensure she meets these at all times. Accountability is improved by the childminder making sure there is written parental agreements with particular regard to collection of children and permission to seek emergency medical treatment, ensuring proper consent is in place.

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

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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 childminder assistant completes a first aid course that includes treatment of infants and young children
- respond appropriately to child protection concerns, obtaining and following local authority safeguarding guidelines
- provide a suitable range of toys and play materials to meet the developmental needs of children aged under five years

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