

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY317226
Inspection date	10 June 2008
Inspector	Sarah Measures
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 registered in 2006. She lives with her partner and two children aged four years and 20 months in Kettering, Northamptonshire. The whole of the childminder's house is available for minding and there is a secure garden used for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time. She currently cares for two children after school with flexible arrangements. She walks to collect children from the local school and regularly attends the local parent and toddler group. 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 are cared for in a very clean and hygienic home. Their health is promoted because the childminder follows appropriate hygiene routines and encourages children to do the same. The sick child policy ensures children's needs are met if they are ill and ensures they are suitably protected from infection. Children are not fully protected in the event of an emergency because

there is no clear written consent for the childminder to seek any necessary emergency medical treatment or advice.

The childminder works with parents in order to ensure children's health and dietary needs are met. Children enjoy physical exercise and being out in the fresh air as they use the childminder's garden or visit the park for outdoor play after school. They are appropriately refreshed after school as the childminder offers them suitable drinks and snacks. Children bring their own sun hats and sun cream to the setting to ensure they are able to play outside safely in the sunshine.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure environment that is sensibly organised to meet their needs. They are able to move freely and safely about the home and choose to rest and play as they wish. Children access suitable and safe toys and equipment within the childminder's home and garden. Children's safety is maintained because the childminder supervises them well and carries out appropriate risk assessments in order to ensure any potential hazards are inaccessible.

Children are not fully protected in the event of a fire because the childminder has not practised the emergency escape plan and the fire blanket is not always easily accessible. The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of child protection issues, but does not have relevant referral information to use if necessary, therefore children are not fully safeguarded. Children are protected when transported in the childminder's car because she takes care to check car seats are available that are suitable for individual children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive from school and settle well. They clearly feel at home and have secure relationships with the childminder and her children. The childminder interacts with the children in a friendly manner, listening to them and including them discussions. Children's views are suitably considered as they make choices about their care and activities. They enjoy familiar routines after school as they chat together whilst having a snack and then choose to play in the garden or take part in games or suitable activities inside the home. A developmentally appropriate selection of sensory and physical toys is available to meet the needs of any younger children that may attend and the childminder visits local toddler groups in order to offer young children appropriate social opportunities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued as individuals. Equality of opportunity for children is generally encouraged because some toys that represent a diverse society are integrated within the children's play environment. Although there are currently no children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in attendance the childminder has suitable policies in place to consider their needs. Children are well behaved because they feel secure and receive good adult attention. The childminder acts as a good role model to the children, treating them with courtesy and respect. Ongoing discussions help children to consider their actions and help them to respect others. Secure systems are in place to work with parents in order to encourage continuity of children's care.

For example, clear written and verbal communications take place in order to ensure parents are sufficiently informed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Policies and procedures suitably promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and their ability to make a positive contribution. Children are protected in the event of an accident because the childminder has attended appropriate training in first aid. The premises are organised to meet children's needs and keep them safe. Routines are well established in order for children to feel secure. The childminder divides her time appropriately in order to ensure children receive sufficient adult care and attention. Most systems for keeping children's records are clear and used to promote their welfare. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made 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, that they may see upon request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made by parents.

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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):

- improve fire safety by practising an emergency escape plan, and by ensuring the fire blanket is easily accessible
- obtain written consent to seek any necessary emergency medical treatment or advice
- improve knowledge of child protection referral procedures, for example by obtaining relevant information as to how to make a referral in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board policies and procedures.

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