

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY335057
Inspection date	13 November 2007
Inspector	Ann Austen
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 2006. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine and one in the Corby area of Northamptonshire. Local amenities are within walking distance. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding, including toilet facilities. Sleeping facilities are provided on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five whose times vary. The childminder attends toddler groups and takes children to the local park. The family has pet fish. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a clean, warm and comfortable childcare environment. They learn the importance of good hygiene practices through daily routines. For example, children wash their

hands at appropriate times during the day and are encouraged to put their hands over their mouths when they cough. This is further enhanced by the childminder who provides separate hand towels for children and has secure procedures for changing nappies. This sustains levels of hygiene and helps to prevent the spread of infection. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has up-to-date first aid knowledge. Clear procedures are in place in the event of accidents, for the administration of medication and if children are unwell.

Children's individual dietary needs are acknowledged and met because the childminder takes account of the wishes of parents as she discusses dietary requirements with them. Their good health and development is promoted by a range of nutritious meals and snacks. For example, children enjoy meat balls, steamed fish, chicken, fresh vegetables and fruit. Meal times are relaxed, social occasions where children and adults sit together around the table to enjoy their food, each other's company and develop good table manners. Younger children are encouraged to drink from accessible beakers throughout the day which ensures that they remain comfortable and well hydrated.

Children participate in a good range of physical activities which contribute to their good health and are able to rest and sleep according to their needs. They have regular opportunities to get fresh air. For example, children enjoy trips to the park where they slide down the slide, climb on the climbing frame, use the roundabout and swing on the swings. Children run, play football, throw balls into the basketball net and manoeuvre wheeled toys in the garden. This improves children's balance, coordination and fitness. Children enjoy moving and stretching their bodies as they sing, dance and move to music. This encourages the children to move their bodies in a variety of ways.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure, welcoming home. Risks of accidental injury are minimised during indoor and outdoor activities because the childminder conducts regular risk assessments to identify potential hazards. The childminder supervises the children well. She is aware of children's developing abilities and ensures that appropriate safety equipment is used according to the ages and needs of the children attending. For example, a safe barrier is provided at the bottom of the stairs, electric sockets are fitted with socket covers and safety catches are fitted on kitchen cupboards containing dangerous items. This enables children to move around safely and independently. The childminder uses her vehicle to transport children, however, written permission to transport children in a vehicle has not been obtained from parents. This compromises children's safety. Children begin to learn the importance of keeping safe by responding to the guidelines set out by the childminder. For example, children learn what to do in an emergency by practising the fire escape plan, to behave sensibly on outings, to cross the road safely and not to talk to strangers. The childminder ensures that children are safe in the sun by applying sun cream in consultation with parents and ensures that children wear a hat. Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's good knowledge of local child protection procedures and her understanding of her responsibilities for the children in her care. This ensures that children are well protected and given high priority at all times.

Children use a wide range of safe, good quality resources, furniture and equipment which supports their play and development. They are interested in and want to play with what is available. Outdoor space is arranged for the children's safe play and is well resourced with toys and equipment.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and settled in the friendly provision. They participate in a good range of activities that develop their emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities. Children enjoy their play and independently select resources and choose from the activities provided. They learn at their own pace and are given time to develop their ideas and interests. Relationships are good, children are developing social awareness and a growing ability to share and be co-operative. The childminder plays alongside the children, helping to make their play meaningful and extending their learning, for example, when reading a story to the children the childminder encourages the children to count the number of objects on the page and asks questions to encourage them to think and respond. This promotes children's intellectual development. Children develop their imaginations with regular craft, musical and role play activities. For example, children enthusiastically manipulate dough, colour pictures, paint and make collage pictures. Children enjoy making and tasting chocolate cakes and decorating biscuits with different coloured icing. Children make puzzles, build with construction resources such as the Duplo bricks and handle small world resources. For example, children roll the cars along the floor and watch with fascination as the blades on the helicopter spin round. Children are learning to concentrate and sit quietly when they listen to a story and look at books for enjoyment. They enthusiastically imitate animal sounds as they look at the pictures of the different animals. Children's mathematical development is promoted as they count the number of Smarties on their gingerbread biscuits and as they learn to identify different shapes. They enjoy regular outings, for example, children attend local toddler groups and visit the library, park and farm. This broadens children's range of experiences and social development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's sense of belonging is fostered through the warm, welcoming and homely atmosphere. They are valued and respected as individuals. Children are confident in their relationship with the childminder, who has a warm, caring relationship with the children. This increases their sense of belonging and promotes their emotional development. As a result children are happy and settled. Children are beginning to develop a positive view of society and the wider world as they explore the local environment and socialize with different individuals at toddler groups. They celebrate festivals such as Hanukkah and Christmas and handle resources which positively represent different cultures, for example, books, small world figures and dolls. However, resources that reflect positive images of disability are limited. Children behave and respond well to the childminder's appropriate behaviour management strategies that take into account their age and stage of development. They receive positive support, praise and encouragement which builds their confidence and self-esteem. Children are learning to be kind and caring towards each other as they develop an understanding of the needs of others and take turns with the toys. Although there are no children currently attending the setting with learning difficulties and/or disabilities the childminder is able to provide care through discussing their needs with parents.

Children's care, welfare and learning are promoted because relationships with parents are open, friendly and professional. Parents speak positively about the setting. A comprehensive portfolio with written policies and procedures is available to parents, including the complaints procedure. This ensures that parents are well informed and secure about the environment in which their children are cared for. Parents are informed about their child's care and routines both verbally

and through the use of daily diaries. This helps to ensure continuous and consistent care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and relaxed in a comfortable and well-organised environment. Space, routines and resources are organised effectively to meet the children's needs. Children are confident to move freely between the available rooms, independently select from the range of resources provided and receive a good level of supervision and adult support. As a result children have fun and are developing in all areas of their learning. Children's welfare, care and learning is promoted by a comprehensive range of well-organised records, policies and procedures. These address each of the National Standards and have a positive impact on children's safety and well-being. Records are stored securely and confidentiality is maintained. Children's records and achievements are openly shared with parents and their contributions are valued. The children's care experience is enhanced by the childminder's commitment to developing her practice, by her attendance at training, and her caring and business-like approach to childminding. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 by 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):

- ensure that written permission is obtained for children to be transported in a vehicle
- develop resources that promote positive images of disability.

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