

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY336440
Inspection date	21 April 2008
Inspector	Ros Church
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 registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and two daughters in a village near Newark, Nottinghamshire. Minded children have access to all areas of the home with toilet and sleep facilities provided on each level. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. The home is close to all local amenities including, schools, parks and shops. The family has a cat.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She currently cares for one child under five and three children over eight years. She 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 well-maintained and comfortable environment. They learn about being healthy during the daily routine, children are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet, the childminder ensures soap is available and each child has their own individual towel for drying their hands. Children's health is promoted because the childminder holds a

current first aid certificate and ensures that parents are aware of her procedures with regards to the care and attendance of sick children. However, written parental consent for emergency medical advice and treatment is not in place, to ensure that the childminder is able to meet all the individual needs of children in an emergency.

Children benefit from a routine which incorporates lots of physical exercise and fresh air. The routine of the day includes walking to and from school. Children enjoy outings to the local parks where they use the fixed play equipment, and have opportunities to run and play ball games; they also have walks around the village and identify areas of interest. Children are well nourished and are provided with a healthy diet. A good variety of meals and snacks are provided which include various vegetables and fruit. Children request drinks of water, milk or juice as they require them. The childminder works well with the parents to ensure dietary requirements and routines meet children's individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play safely within the home as the childminder effectively minimises any risks. She carries out daily checks to ensure areas are safe and that safety equipment is in place, for example, a safety gate is in position at the doorway between the lounge and kitchen to prevent young children entering the kitchen unsupervised. All fire detection and prevention equipment is in place and is tested regularly. Although the childminder has a procedure in place for fire evacuation this has not been practised to ensure children's safety. The childminder ensures children are supervised at all times, this enables them to move around safely and independently which increases their confidence. Children learn about the safety of themselves and others around them, for example, an older child is aware not to let a young child or baby have access to small play equipment. During outings the childminder ensures children's safety, young children are secured in pushchairs and older children hold onto the pushchair or hold hands and learn how to cross the roads safely. Toys and equipment within the home are easily accessible within the lounge and conservatory, the childminder makes good use of shelving and containers to enable children to make choices within their play. Play equipment is clean and well maintained and is suitable for children's individual development. Children are protected and their welfare safeguarded because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection, she knows what to do in the event of any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, relaxed and settled within the childminder's care. They have good relationships with the childminder and other children within the home. Children learn to be independent and begin to make choices from play equipment which are easily accessible. For example, children decide to play with the role play equipment which includes home play, shops and dressing-up. They play imaginatively together making pretend meals for one another, going to the shops and using their imagination to extend play further using the soft toy animals. The childminder provides a good range of activities which take into account children's interests, individual needs and development. They develop their imagination, creative and investigative skills through activities such as painting, play dough, drawing, sticking, role play and construction. Activities are adapted to meet children's developmental needs. For example, during a dough activity a younger child explores the texture of the dough, by squeezing and prodding it, whilst an older child uses the dough and tools to make animals. The childminder

interacts well with the children and is involved in their play; she encourages their language and mathematical development during activities and daily routines. Children's achievements are fostered through praise and encouragement, this helps to develop their self-esteem and confidence. During the day appropriate routines ensure children are happy and their individual needs are met.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are respected and valued as individuals. They benefit from the childminder knowing them well and effectively working with the parents to meet their individual needs. Through good communication the childminder keeps parents well informed of their child's care and development. A notice board within the hall gives parents information on the childminder's routines, child care practices and policies this enables them to be well informed of her provision. The childminder has systems in place to support the inclusion of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Children learn about their local community through daily walks in the village and visits to the shops, library, local parks and toddler groups. They are beginning to learn about the wider world through the provision of a range of toys and activities that promote positive images of similarities and differences within society. Children begin to have a sense of belonging within the home as they see their art work displayed and are able to make choices within their play. Their behaviour is good and they learn to play cooperatively to share and take turns with equipment, for example, children enjoy playing imaginatively together with the role play equipment. The childminder fosters children's good behaviour through praise and encouragement.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are looked after in an environment which is organised to meet individual needs. Suitable space is available for children to play and rest, with opportunities for them to make choices within their play. Children enjoy their time in the home and develop warm relationships with the childminder and one another. All adults in the household are appropriately vetted to ensure children stay protected from harm. Most records are maintained to a generally good standard and confidentiality is maintained. The registration certificate is displayed within the hall; this provides parents with information on the childminder's conditions of registration. The childminder has made a sound start to childminding, she has attended required courses including the introduction to childminding practice and first aid, and she uses the knowledge gained to improve her service. 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 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):

- ensure written parental permission is requested, at the time of placement to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future
- ensure the emergency evacuation procedure is practised.

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