



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY340993
Inspection date	26 February 2007
Inspector	Alexandra Brouder
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 2006. She lives with her husband in a house in West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire. The house is close to local schools, shops and parks. Minded children have access to the whole of the house apart from the master bedroom and back bedroom. There is a secure rear garden available for outside play. The childminder has two pet dogs.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under eight at any one time. Currently there are six children on roll between the ages of 15 months to nine years.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and has a Level 2 qualification in Childcare.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is well maintained because they are cared for in a warm and clean environment where routines and effective hygiene practices prevent infection and maintain health. For example, children wash their hands after toileting and use individual flannels to minimise the spread of infection. Younger children are helped to use wipes to clean their hands and face after meals to promote their personal hygiene skills. Nappy changing routines further help to support children's health, as the childminder uses wipes, disposable gloves and an antibacterial cleanser on her hands to minimise the chance of cross-infection. Although records relating to accidents and medication are maintained appropriately, the childminder has not sought written consent for emergency medical advice or treatment from parents and carers, which may impact on children's welfare.

Children, particularly younger ones, access the outdoors on a regular basis, enabling them to increase their mobility skills and strength. Children have access to an enclosed rear garden that has a range of resources to increase their skills in throwing and ball control, as well as participating in group games. The childminder also uses local toddler groups to ensure that children have regular opportunities to exercise throughout the year.

Children enjoy a healthy, balanced diet, provided by the childminder. They have the opportunity to enjoy a varied and nutritious range of snacks and meals which appeal to children and meet their dietary needs. For example, the child today was offered vegetable lasagne, followed by rice pudding. The childminder discusses with parents what food their children can have, and maintains records of this, ensuring that children are only offered what parents have discussed with her. She has a menu plan and displays this, enabling parents to see each day what children will be eating. She ensures children are offered frequent drinks which promote healthy drinking practices.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well supervised and cared for in the accessible and comfortable home. They are able to move freely within the permitted areas and have access to the enclosed rear garden for outdoor play, increasing their confidence and independence skills. Toys and resources available, are appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Most required safety equipment, such as socket covers and stair gates, are in place ensuring that children remain safe. However, currently the smoke detector is not working on the first floor and the door in the hall has exposed unprotected glass in, which impacts on children's safety. Required documentation, such as outings permission from parents and carers, is in place to support children's safety.

Children's welfare is fostered well and safeguarded through the childminder's good working knowledge of child protection procedures. The childminder maintains appropriate written

records and procedures to help ensure the children's welfare. For example, there is a devised emergency escape plan, which is practised by all children and recorded appropriately.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the childminder's care. They have established a trusting and warm relationship with her, which increases their sense of belonging. The childminder is attentive to the children and able to recognise their individual needs, and meet these well. For example, the childminder recognised when a young child needed a drink through the slight change in his temperament.

Children make choices in their play and can select from a wide range of age and stage appropriate resources, which promote their learning in all areas. For example, a child built a tower with blocks, showing great delight in knocking them down each time. This helps to develop their mathematical skills and hand-eye coordination.

The childminder discussed how she meets the needs of older children through planning a variety of craft activities and age appropriate resources. These include role-play equipment, train sets and a range of messy play, to ensure that they are stimulated and enjoy their time with her.

The childminder is aware of the existence of early years guidance such as the 'Birth to three matters' framework, and is beginning to use this when promoting experiences for younger children. She has information displayed on this in the hallway of her home and endeavours to create a stimulating and fulfilling environment for all age groups.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the inclusive environment. The childminder offers a welcoming environment in which all participate fully, increasing their sense of belonging. She has established a good range of toys and activities that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, such as, dolls, puzzles and small world resources, increasing children's awareness of other cultures and the wider world. The childminder is aware that children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, may need additional support or help.

Children's welfare is maintained as the childminder seeks appropriate information from parents, before children begin in her care, regarding their wants and needs. Parents are kept well informed of their child's progress through the use of a daily diary and/or verbal feedback each day. Confidentiality is well maintained as the childminder stores all children's information in a lockable storage box.

Children's behaviour is good. They develop self-confidence and positive self-esteem through the childminder's consistent approach to managing behaviour. This is further promoted through the childminder's use of praise and encouragement in all that children achieve. Children begin to understand right from wrong as they play. For example, the childminder spoke of encouraging

the younger child to share toys with others at toddler group and explaining that the toys are for all children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are happy and content in the comfortable and well-organised environment, helping them to feel settled, develop good relationships and enjoy their time with the childminder. This enables children to feel confident, initiate their own play and to explore their surroundings.

Children's care and safety are supported well in the main, although there are some safety issues that need to be addressed. Most required records and documentation are in place, and stored appropriately, to support children's welfare. However, permission for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment has not been sought from parents.

Overall, the children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the childminder's first inspection since registration.

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 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):

- ensure that written parental permission for seeking any emergency medical advice or treatment is in place for all children
- ensure that the smoke alarm on the first floor is in working order and that all low level glass, in the hall, is inaccessible to children.

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