

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY347263
Inspection date	29 July 2008
Inspector	Katherine Powell
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 has been registered since 2007. She is registered to care for a maximum of five children under the age of eight years at any one time. She currently cares for seven children on a part-time basis.

The childminder lives with her partner and daughter on the outskirts of a large village near the market town of Hinckley in Leicestershire. The whole ground floor and the rear bedroom and bathroom on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childcare purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. Schools, parks, shops and places of interest are within easy walking or driving distance of the childminder's home.

The childminder has completed a recognised childcare qualification.

The family has a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean home where they learn about the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines. For example, children consistently wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet to reduce the risk of cross-infection. Children's dietary requirements, including their likes and dislikes, are met through close communication with parents. Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks, such as fresh fruit, and have access to regular drinks. Children benefit from eating home cooked meals which are healthy and nutritious. Children's social skills are well promoted as they sit together at the table to eat meals.

Children enjoy participating in a wide range of activities which contributes to their health. For example, they are taken on regular walks around the local area and enjoy using a good range of play equipment in the garden which helps to promote their physical skills. Children also enjoy regular visits to the local park where they can access large play equipment. Children have space to explore their environment and younger children delight in being active in the lounge. They are encouraged to move around the room and practise their whole body movements. They are developing good hand to eye co-ordination, using crayons to draw and mark-make and turning the pages of a book. Older children skilfully handle tools such as scissors and play dough cutters. Children are able to rest and relax according to their individual needs as there is comfortable seating in the lounge. Travel cots are provided upstairs so younger children can sleep undisturbed.

The childminder maintains appropriate records and has effective systems in place to ensure children's health is promoted. For example, she has clear information regarding sick children and accident and medication records contain appropriate detail. The childminder has completed a first aid course and a well-stocked first aid box is provided. This ensures that any accidents can be dealt with effectively.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well-maintained, child-friendly and safe environment. The childminder regularly checks her home to ensure the risk of accidents is minimised. For example, electrical sockets are covered and hazardous substances are kept out of reach of children. Thorough written risk assessments are maintained to ensure the premises remain safe and children are protected. The garden is fully enclosed and secure enabling children to play outside safely. Children benefit from being able to move around freely and independently within the home, accessing different areas for a variety of play activities. Toys and equipment are of a high quality and are maintained in a clean and safe condition. Low-level toy boxes and shelving enables children to reach toys and games safely and easily and the childminder is mindful of ensuring that young children are unable to access games with small pieces.

Children are well supervised at all times, both indoors and outdoors, to ensure their safety. Effective procedures are in place when taking children on outings and children learn about road safety when walking around the local area. The childminder has appropriate fire safety equipment in place, such as a fire blanket in the kitchen and smoke detectors. Children benefit from taking part in regular fire drills which enables them to learn how to evacuate the premises calmly in an emergency. The childminder has a good awareness of child protection procedures

as she has attended appropriate training. This enables her to promote and safeguard children's welfare effectively.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy participating in a wide range of activities which engages their interest and meets their individual development needs. Children have good opportunities to develop their social skills as they play alongside the childminder and other children. Children are able to initiate their own activities and freely select from a good range of toys and play equipment. They receive good support during play activities and the childminder promotes children's speech and language skills through effective interaction. Young children are fully encouraged to be independent as they make choices about their play and learning and express their own needs.

Children respond well to the childminder and they feel confident and secure in her care. The childminder fully involves herself in children's play and activities. She knows individual children well, so is able to provide a suitable range of experiences to meet their needs. For example, children enjoy having opportunities to play outside in the garden and delight in sitting on the sofa with the childminder to listen to stories. Children develop their early mathematical skills as they count toys and recognise familiar shapes. They have fun setting up a 'shop' and take turns playing the role of the shop keeper and the customer. They carefully count out coins to pay for their purchases. Children enjoy creative activities and have access to a wide range of resources and materials to express their ideas, such as play dough, paint, crayons, pens, glue and scissors. The childminder is beginning to develop her awareness of the Early Years Foundation Stage to support young children's learning and development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals as the childminder takes time to talk to children and listen to their ideas and suggestions. Some play resources, such as dolls and books, are available which reflect positive images and help to develop children's awareness of the wider world. The childminder also plans activities to foster children's understanding of different festivals and celebrations. For example, children designed Rangoli patterns when talking about Diwali. Children learn about the local community by going on walks and visiting the park, library and shops. The childminder ensures that she gathers appropriate information from parents to enable her to provide suitable care and to fully meet a child's individual needs.

The childminder has a good awareness of effective behaviour management strategies which are appropriate to the differing ages and stages of development of the child. She is calm and sensitive towards the children and uses positive reinforcement to promote good behaviour and develop a child's self-esteem. Children show care and respect for the childminder.

The childminder fosters positive relationships with parents. Information is regularly exchanged with parents to ensure children are cared for according to parental wishes and their usual routines. Parents receive daily verbal information ensuring they are well informed about the childminder's service and their child's care and development. The childminder also keeps a written diary for each child so parents are able to share fully in their child's day. A useful portfolio is available for parents which gives good information about policies and procedures. Parents are informed of the procedure to be followed if they have a concern or complaint.

However, clear systems have not yet been implemented to record any concerns which may be received.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's individual needs are well met through the effective organisation of space and resources. The childminder utilises her time effectively to provide children with opportunities to engage in activities both within and outside the home. Children have time to rest and sleep according to their needs. The childminder has undertaken some additional training to ensure she has a good knowledge and awareness of childcare issues, such as child protection and the new 'Early Years Foundation Stage' framework.

Children's care, welfare and learning are well promoted through the written policies and procedures in place. Records are held securely to enable children and families to benefit from confidentiality. The childminder ensures continuity of care is maintained through close liaison with parents. Effective procedures for gathering and sharing information with parents enables children to settle quickly into the setting. 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):

- develop recording systems in the event of a complaint being received from parents.

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