

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY350162
Inspection date	26 June 2008
Inspector	Susan Riley
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 2007. She lives with her partner and two young children in the Rise Park area of Nottingham. The whole of the childminder's house except the main bedroom is used for childminding. Toilet facilities are provided on the first floor. The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years and is currently caring for six children on a part-time basis.

The childminder walks to local schools and nursery to take and collect children. She attends the local childminding support group, toddler groups, takes children to the local library and to the local parks. The childminder holds a childcare qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is soundly promoted as the childminder takes positive steps to promote the children's good health and encourages them to begin to take responsibility of meeting their

own health needs. Positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures are taken when children are ill so that health needs are met. Children are kept in a clean environment and are protected from germs and cross-infection. For example, each child has their own individual colour coded towels for hand drying.

Children are starting to understand simple good health and hygiene practices and are learning about healthy living. For example, they are encouraged to wash their hands appropriately and they are encouraged to eat healthy foods. The children's welfare is promoted because the childminder can respond to accidents appropriately as a current first aid certificate is held. The contents of the first aid box is kept up to date and readily available, and accidents are recorded and shared with parents. For example, a small first aid box is carried with the childminder at all times along with all emergency contact details. This practise fully protects children. Written consents from parents are in place for all children for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice. This protects the children as the childminder is fully aware of their parents' wishes and can act upon them at any time. Children rest and sleep according to their needs.

Children are well nourished because the childminder has a good understanding of healthy eating. They have good opportunities to learn about healthy eating because the childminder provides children with regular drinks and food that is nutritious and complies with their dietary and religious needs. Children's independence is promoted as they freely help themselves to drinks as they become thirsty. The children enjoy the varied opportunities to experience physical activities and develop their skills. They use the local parks, toddler groups and indoor play centres for more physical challenge.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and very well cared for in premises that are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They have sufficient space to play freely and to be active, or to rest and sleep according to their age. Children use an adequate range of equipment that is suitable and safe. The childminder provides furniture, equipment and toys which are appropriate for their purpose. They are of suitable design and condition and are well-maintained. These are within easy reach of the children so they can select what they want to play with. This encourages the children's independence as they make their own choices and decisions. Children are kept safe because the childminder has appropriate systems for cleaning and checking the toys and equipment, this ensures they are safe for use.

Children's safety is suitably promoted because the childminder takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings. The childminder ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents and this minimise and identified risks to children. All safety equipment is in place to ensure children are safe and protected. The childminder has written policies and procedures in place to protect children and these are shared with parents, so they are fully aware of the childminder's practice and offers them reassurance that their children are safe. The childminder has detailed risk assessments of the different types of outings that she takes the children on. Thus ensure children are safe at all times.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe through the regular fire practices, which raise their awareness of what to do in the event of an emergency. When out walking with the children, the childminder reinforces road safety to help them begin to understand how to cross the road. The current topic for the week is road safety and the children are making their own traffic lights. The childminder is skilled in asking questions of the children to make them think and

learn as they are eager to state how they can cross a road and what they must watch out for. The children are protected from harm because the childminder has a sound understanding of her role in child protection. They are able to put appropriate procedures into practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident, independent and developing their self-esteem. Their art work is displayed around the home, demonstrating that the childminder values them which raises the children's self-esteem and self-worth. They are settled and secure in the care of the childminder. Children receive appropriate levels of individual support to promote their development and facilitate their play. Children show interest in what they do and take pride in their achievements. They are developing a range of new knowledge and skills, through first hand experiences, such as baking and choosing their own tomato plants and caring for them back at the childminder's home. Children are given help when learning how to cut their art work out.

Good, warm and caring relationships between the childminder and children are evident. For example, the children have fun with the childminder and they freely give hugs and cuddles and get excited when singing. The children explore the toys that are set out to interest them and to promote their development. The childminder plays with the children at their level and lets the children lead the play. For example, the childminder provides the children with song sheets so they can choose what song to sing. Children are very well-behaved and respond well to the positive praise and encouragement offered by the childminder.

Children are taken on outings, local walks and trips to the park. They also attend local toddler groups where they can socialise with other children and access a different selection of resources to play with. The children are confident to go to the childminder for help or for their needs to be met. Structured daily and weekly routines are in place to provide appropriately timed meals and periods of rest. This means children benefit from care routines consistent with their home experiences. The childminder has development files on all children, these are updated monthly and then the childminder uses this information to plan further activities to move the children on in their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are involved in what is going on around them and gain self-confidence and good self-esteem. They are able to feel a sound sense of belonging through seeing their artwork displayed around the home. Children are developing respect for others from activities and resources that help them to develop an understanding of diversity and learn about their local community. The childminder finds out about and acknowledges the customs and beliefs of each child's family by talking to the parents and children. For example, a welcome sign is displayed in different languages helping all people to feel welcome.

The childminder has a suitable awareness of systems to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, ensuring all children are cared for appropriately. Children make positive relationships and they behave very well. They make their own choices and decisions within their play and learning, which promotes their sense of being valued and self-esteem.

Children are developing sound relationships with adults and other children in a setting where the childminder works closely with parents and carers to meet individual children's needs and

ensure they are fully included. Written agreements are in place with the parents of each child and this ensures all parties are aware of the arrangements in place. The childminder has devised a set of policies and procedures which are shared with the parents ensuring that they are fully aware of their practice. However, the complaints procedure does not have the correct contact telephone number and address. So parents are not fully aware of whom to contact if they have a concern. All records are shared with parents. The childminder communicates with the parents and seeks their views by talking to them daily about the children and what they have achieved during the day. The childminder also uses daily diaries for children that go between the child's own home and the childminder's home. Parents are able to make comments, this ensures that both parties are fully aware of what has happened to the child. The childminder provides the parents with lots of detailed information about the service that she provides.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are protected because the vetting procedure ensures that household members have been vetted and are safe and suitable to be in contact with them. The children benefit because the childminder has appropriate qualifications, knowledge and experience to do her job which ensures that children's needs are well covered. The childminder holds a recognised childcare qualification and is very committed to further training to improve the provision for the children.

Children are cared for in an environment that is well-organised to make the best use of the space available to maximise the comfort and enjoyment of the children. The house is well-maintained and is risk assessed so it is a safe and secure environment for children to play in. Children access a suitable range of resources and have suitable activities and play opportunities planned for them to promote their development. Most policies and procedures protect children sufficiently and are effectively implemented to promote all the outcomes for children. Essential information is reliably recorded and easily located. All records are in place, accurate and up to date. 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):

- review the complaint information to ensure it has relevant contact information.

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