

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY357707
Inspection date	07 May 2008
Inspector	Ann Winifred Harrison
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 lives with her husband in Swadlincote, Derbyshire. The whole of the premises is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and provides overnight care. She is currently minding seven children aged from 10 months to seven years. The childminder takes and collects children from school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a clean, well-organised home. They learn the importance of hygiene through daily routines and discussions, they wash their hands before eating, after toileting and after playing in the garden. The childminder talks to the children about the reason for washing their hands. Independence is encouraged, as older children access the bathroom independently and use their own face cloths and towels. This promotes their self-care and reduces the risk of cross-infection. There are good arrangements for protecting children from infection as the childminder does not care for sick or infectious children. The childminder is

familiar with the procedure for notifiable and communicable diseases and the necessary responses. This means children's welfare is fully protected. Accident and medication records are in place, appropriate treatment given and parents' signatures and consents have been obtained. Procedures in case of illness and who to contact in case of emergencies are fully detailed. This information helps to ensure appropriate action is taken to care for children who become ill.

The childminder provides nutritional snacks and meals which include fresh fruit, raisins and yoghurts. Children enjoy freshly prepared meals such as cheese or ham sandwiches, lasagne, chicken dinners and fresh vegetables. The childminder talks to children about what food is good for them and the importance of fresh air and exercise. She ensures that any special dietary needs are met. Children can access drinks whenever they are thirsty. This contributes to children's good health and helps them to develop an awareness of a healthy diet. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise. They go on regular outings to the park, the forestry centre, the zoo and the farm. They regularly play in the garden where they enjoy playing on the climbing frame and riding bikes. When the weather is poor the children join in with musical games and action rhymes indoors. These types of activities help to develop children's physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a well-organised environment and are closely supervised at all times. They can independently access a range of stimulating toys and equipment which are well maintained by the childminder. Effective organisation of resources in the play room enable children to make choices and initiate their own play. The childminder ensures that all equipment is regularly cleaned and checked which helps to keep children safe.

Good attention is given to keeping children safe. The house is secure, with locks on doors to prevent strangers entering and children leaving unsupervised. Good precautions such as safety gates, enable children to play safely. However, not all electrical sockets are safe and this poses a potential risk to children. The childminder has been proactive in ensuring the fire safety of the home through displaying the evacuation procedures. There are smoke alarms on both levels and a carbon monoxide alarm is also in place. Children learn how to keep themselves safe through the clear boundaries set by the childminder. They learn that they must stop, look and listen before crossing the road and they know to stay close to the childminder when on outings. Children know they must use seat belts when travelling in the car and the childminder provides appropriate seats to ensure their safety. They know how to react in the event of a fire as they regularly practise the emergency evacuation procedure. This helps children to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

The childminder has a clear understanding of child protection issues. She has a good understanding of signs and symptoms that may alert her to child abuse and would contact Social Services in response to concerns. This helps to ensure children are protected from harm or neglect. However, she is not fully aware of the procedure if an allegation of abuse is made whilst children are in her care and the potential impact on her practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and at home in the well-organised environment. They move around freely to make decisions about their play and develop their independence well. For example,

they enjoy selecting activities such as books and jigsaw puzzles. Children explore different textures and materials as they play such as play dough and paint. The childminder plans activities in advance to ensure they are age-appropriate, but is flexible and will change her plans if the children request something different. She constantly talks to the children during activities to promote their development and understanding.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the childminder's home. They achieve well because the childminder uses her knowledge of child development to provide a good variety of activities to help children make progress. She uses activities well to further extend children's learning as she introduces early mathematical skills such as counting and measuring how tall they are on a wall chart. She introduces topics of taller and shorter; children compare their sunflowers as they grow. Children show good interest and their concentration is well developed as they engage in the varied activities on offer. They enjoy painting, colouring and playing with the doll's house. They enjoy listening to stories and singing songs which helps with their language skills. They are relaxed in the childminder's company and experience a warm relationship with her and her family. This increases their sense of trust and well-being.

Children receive a high level of individual attention as the childminder spends most of her time working directly with them and ensures their individual routine needs are met. Activities are interesting, challenging and children are happy and settled. The childminder is using the 'Birth to three matters' framework well to enable her to plan and provide suitable play activities for children under three years. Babies safely explore their environment as they inquisitively open drawers with suitable toys and books that the childminder has purposely put at their level. Young babies can explore a variety of bright musical toys which help develop their senses. She makes observations of the children to find out what they know. She then uses these to plan for children's next steps in learning to help them make progress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are clearly understood and respected by the childminder. All children are welcomed and included in the provision. The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and to help children understand differences and similarities. For example, children look at books about other countries and about disabilities. They celebrate different festivals like Chinese New Year and they look at maps of the world to find out where they live. Children's individual needs are met well, the childminder finds out about their specific needs through the use of contracts and discussing daily routines with parents. Although there are no children attending the setting who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities, the childminder has procedures in place to ensure that she works with parents and other professionals to meet each child's needs.

The childminder has a good understanding of how to manage children's behaviour to promote their welfare and development. She encourages good behaviour by regularly giving praise and encouragement; she has a variety of strategies suitable to the age range of the children to deal with unwanted behaviour. For example, she uses distraction with young children and for older children she sits and talks to them calmly for a few minutes and explains why it is unacceptable. Children are involved in devising 'Happy Faces Rules' which are positive rules such as 'we share toys' and 'we have fun'. As a result, children play well together and behave well.

The good partnerships with parents and carers contributes to the children's care and well-being. The childminder provides very detailed information about the service that she provides including

her clear, well-written policies, daily routines and activities. She gives verbal feedback at the end of the day and completes daily diaries for younger children which inform parents of their child's progress. This means they are fully informed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's needs are met effectively through the suitable use of space and resources. The childminder has a routine and prepares for each session with relevant age-appropriate resources. Children are able to access resources and toys to initiate their own play and learning because the childminder has organised toys and resources in children's reach. Free play, craft time and outdoor play are included to ensure children have a good balance of educational and developmental experiences.

A very good range of policies and procedures are maintained and shared with parents; they are kept well informed about their child's routines and activities. All necessary documentation contributing to the children's well-being, health, safety and care are in place and are regularly reviewed. However, the attendance record is not completed on a daily basis, this means it is not always accurate. Individual records are completed for each child and written agreements are in place with each parent. The registration certificate is fully displayed. Children benefit from a childminder who attends training courses to update her knowledge and skills. For example, since registration she has attended an introduction to childcare practice and first aid. 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):

- maintain an accurate attendance record

- ensure all electrical sockets are made safe
- increase knowledge and understanding of the safeguarding procedures regarding allegations of abuse which is alleged to have taken place whilst the child is in the care of the childminder.

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