

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY361062
Inspection date	24 June 2008
Inspector	Judith Rayner
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 husband and young family in a semi detached house in Retford, north Nottinghamshire. The family has fish, three chickens and two rabbits. There are local amenities close by such as a park, shops and schools. The whole of the house is used for the purpose of childminding and children have access to toilet facilities on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed and secure back garden for outdoor play. There are six children on roll who attend various sessions throughout the week. Children are taken and collected from the local schools and nurseries. The childminder is registered to care for no more than five children under eight years of age. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The health and welfare of children is promoted suitably. There are sufficient systems in place for the prevention of cross-infection such as children having their own colour-coded hand towels and the childminder cleans surface with antibacterial substances. However, the procedures

used to change nappies is less effective and has the potential for some children to be more exposed to possible germs. Children learn about the importance of good practice in personal hygiene because they wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating, and after messy play. Children's immediate medical needs are met quickly and appropriately. This is because the childminder has a first aid box, emergency contact numbers and information to support the needs of the child should an accident occur.

Children enjoy meal times. They learn the conventions of sitting at a table and eat their food, socialising and talking about events from the day. They particularly enjoy their pudding of jelly and strawberries singing, 'jelly in the bowl' as they happily eat it up. Their dietary needs are met well. This is because the childminder finds out what they like to eat and drink and what their requirements are. She provides alternatives if required. Parents and carers are consulted from the onset and kept up to date with their child's intake of food and drinks. Food offered is healthy, varied, well balanced and nutritious.

Time outside benefits children really well. They enjoy time in the garden and at the local park. Children eagerly chase bubbles around the garden trying to pop them, play in the water trough with toy sea creatures, ride in trundle toys and look at the rabbits and chickens. They are having fun.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into a home that is warm, safe and clean. A range of the children's own art work, pictures and posters promote a child orientated environment. Low-level storage encourages children to independently access toys and resources of their choice. Children develop their interests and curiosity because the childminder provides a good range of activities and toys that are stimulating, challenging and are attractively presented. Children use the rooms of the house well and have a good understanding of what they are used for. For example, they know to eat and participate in messy play activities in the kitchen and spend time playing with jigsaws and baby dolls in the conservatory. They access the garden to run around catching bubbles, playing on the trundle toys and climbing apparatus.

Children are safe. This is because the childminder undertakes regular risk assessments to ensure hazards are identified and risks minimised. Children are supervised well. This is because the childminder has a good understanding of the differing needs to supervise children according to their age, ability, understanding and the activity they are undertaking. Children are unable to leave the house alone because the childminder has the doors and gates locked but keys are easily accessible for adult use. Visitors are requested to sign the visitors book enabling the childminder to monitor who has access to and from the house. Children learn what to do should they need to leave the house in an emergency. They talk about what to do with the childminder and participate in regular fire drills. These are recorded and evaluated to ensure best practice is obtained.

The safeguarding of children is good. This is because the childminder has a robust understanding of her fundamental role to protect children. She is knowledgeable of the signs and symptoms of possible abuse and the procedures to take should she have any concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children's care, learning and play is of an excellent standard. They are progressing very well. This is because the childminder has a high level of understanding of child development and is very effective in implementing activities to support young children's learning. She is very confident in her knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and plans accordingly to meet the individual learning needs of each child. For example, the current topic is about 'The ocean'. The children participate in robust planned activities such as visiting the library to choose books about animals that live in the sea. They spend time playing with water and small world animals, sea weed, sponges and shells, paint and decorate paper fish and display them in the childminder's home or take them home. Within these activities the childminder is extremely skilled in asking children thought provoking questions, raising their awareness to creatures that live in the sea, their names, what seaweed may feel like and extend and expand the use of vocabulary such as learning colours as they paint the fish. Children are highly motivated, engaged and interested in the activities. Records are undertaken of what the children have achieved enabling the childminder to plan the next steps of learning for each child. Each child has their own development file which contains clear and thorough information of the child's stages of achievement and progress. These are shared with the parents and carers informing them of how their child is developing and what is required next to support them.

Children develop good relationships with the childminder. They happily receive and give cuddles and enjoy sitting on the childminder's knee as they play in the water or just want to sit down. Children develop good caring relationships with one another. For example, they ask one another if they would like a pepper stick for lunch to which they respond, 'yes please'. Children are provided with very good opportunities to have fun. They excitedly request to have the bubbles and then proceed to chase them around the garden stamping, popping and catching them squealing with excitement. Their self-esteem is very good. This is because the childminder listens carefully to what the children want to play with, their likes and dislikes. Children feel valued.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met very well. This is because the childminder knows her children well. Time taken settling children in to her care. Lengthy discussions with parents and carers and records undertaken ensure the child's needs are identified and met. Children learn about the world they live in. They spend time at the library looking at books and undertake topic work such as the farm and ocean. They participate in activities such as visiting farms and undertake creative activities making and decorating mobile fish to hang in the conservatory. Children play with a suitable range of toys and resources that positively promote others' similarities and differences. Conversations held and planned topic work raise children's awareness to differing religious and cultural festivals. A range of visits and activities undertaken such as toddler groups, movement to music, the library and the shops support children in learning about their local community. There are good systems in place to meet the needs of children and their families with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. This is because the childminder is positive and realistic in her approach to offering an inclusive environment where all children progress.

The behaviour of children is good. This is because the childminder provides a good range of toys and resources and rotates and changes the play regularly to ensure children do not get bored. Effective methods in place to deal with inappropriate behaviour ensure children are

given clear and consistent messages and learn the boundaries and expectations set by the childminder. Their self-esteem is good because they are praised at many opportunities and are listened to when they express their ideas and thoughts. For example, two children wanted to play with the trundle toy at the same time. The childminder gave plenty of calm explanations and prompted the two children to take turns. This was accepted with ease and comfort from both children and happily shared, taking turns to sit on the toy.

Children benefit extremely well from the positive partnership between the childminder and their parents and carers. A very good range of written information such as policies and procedures, newsletters and children's development files are available for parents and carers to view at their leisure. These highlight the service that is offered, how their children are cared for and what they have been doing. Conversations and discussions are held at the beginning and the end of day ensuring up-to-date information is shared about how the child is and what they have been doing.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are protected well. This is because the childminder has good systems in place to ensure children are not left alone with un-vetted adults. For example, in an emergency situation, children are cared for by another registered childminder which has been discussed and agreed with parents and carers. Children benefit very well from the commitment and enthusiasm of the childminder to increase her own knowledge and skills in caring for children. For example, the childminder has completed all required courses for registration and undertaken additional courses in child education and welfare. She implements the new skills and knowledge in to her practice improving and raising the standard of care and learning for all children. They are offered good potential for positive play and learning. This is because the childminder organises time, space and resources effectively to meet the individual needs of the children in her care. The clear routines benefit children encouraging them to feel safe, secure and settled.

Records, policies and procedures underpin the running of the setting and clearly inform parents and carers of how their children are cared for and what their children have achieved. However, the system for obtaining and recording written parental consent for the seeking of emergency medical advice and treatment is not as effective. This has the potential for some children's immediate medical needs not being met. All other records are accurate and up to date and organised extremely well. Other records such as the children's individual files including development files are robust and clearly written. Information is shared in a confidential manner and records are held securely. Overall, the provision is meeting the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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):

- continue to improve the methods used to prevent the spread of infection
- continue to improve the system for obtaining written parental consent for the seeking of medical advice and treatment.

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