

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY274376
Inspection date	11 September 2007
Inspector	Linda Gail Moore
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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and eight years in Derbyshire. The playroom, kitchen, conservatory and hallway on the ground floor and the guest room on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder drives or walks to the local schools and playgroups to take and collect children. She attends the local parent, carer and toddler group and takes children to the local park and soft play facilities.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time. She is currently minding five children of whom three attend full-time and two attend before and after school on varying days. The family have a rabbit. The childminder attends ongoing training provided by Derbyshire Early Years Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and a healthy lifestyle. All rooms and resources are very clean and well maintained. Work surfaces, floors and equipment are cleaned daily. The childminder operates a non smoking policy in the house at all times and ensures rooms are well ventilated. She has undertaken training in food hygiene and understands the requirements for storing food appropriately in the fridge and for food to be heated thoroughly. Temperature gauges are available to ensure this. These measures ensure children benefit from a clean and hygienic environment. Children's personal care needs are met effectively through the childminder's daily routine. They receive encouragement and support, for example, they are given help to wash and dry their hands. Nappy changing arrangements reflect good hygiene practice with the changing mat wiped down between uses and the childminder washing her hands afterwards. This helps to prevent cross-infection.

Children have their dietary needs met effectively as the childminder encourages them to eat healthy foods. She prepares all of the children's meals and provides a balanced diet. She has a copy of the school menu and refers to this so that the meals she offers do not duplicate what children have eaten at school that day. They eat a good amount of fresh fruit for snacks and as desert following meals. Drinks are readily available so that children can help themselves and not become dehydrated. Children enjoy cooking with the childminder, such as making their own pizza where they choose and add their own toppings like cheese, ham, tomatoes and peppers. They bake and decorate cakes. The childminder works in close consultation with parents to share information regarding any specific needs and is clear and well informed about each child's diet and preferences. Their food and fluid intake is discussed on a daily basis. As a result children eat healthily and are well nourished.

Children enjoy a range of physical activity and this contributes to their good health. They benefit from regular walks and visits to the park and soft play centre. The childminder ensures any places they visit are secure and the equipment available is varied and suitable. Children enjoy regular walks and exploring along the footpaths around the local countryside. They watch the spring lambs, horses and cows. The childminder packs a picnic and they go and feed the ducks. She ensures children are well-supervised and that they do not get too close to the edge of the water. Children enjoy these outings and see them as a big adventure. The outside garden is used well and provides extended play opportunities including an organised sports day during the summer. A variety of equipment is available such as a climbing frame, trampoline, sand pit and ride on toys. These activities help to improve children's physical skills and co-ordination. Individual and personal information is discussed with parents to ensure any health and medical needs are identified and adhered to. Appropriate documentation is kept including accident records and sick child and exclusion policies, this ensures parents are well informed. The childminder has a current first aid certificate. A suitable first aid kit is in place that is stocked with appropriate contents. All of these measures ensure children's needs are met should they become ill or injured.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe environment that is suitable for its purpose. There is a playroom available that is very child focused with displays of photographs and art work that brighten and make the premises welcoming. Children use good quality toys and equipment that are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Their ongoing safety is promoted as the childminder has a good understanding of safety issues and gives a good level of attention to this both inside and outside the home. Risk assessments are carried out monthly and recorded, these identify how any potential risks or hazards are minimised. Suitable safety equipment is in place such as plug socket covers, child locks on cupboards and safety gates. The childminder is fully aware of her evacuation procedure, this is written down and regularly practised with the children. A fire blanket and smoke alarms are in place, these are regularly checked to ensure they are in good working order. These measures ensure the safety and well-being of children in the event of a fire. Children are very well supervised and monitored during mealtimes, sleep and play. However, the trampoline is not always used appropriately (within manufacturers guidelines) and though parents are aware of their children's use, the childminder has not sought their written permission.

Children are kept safe on outings with good arrangements in place when walking as pedestrians, using public transport or travelling in the childminder's car. The childminder talks to children about how to cross the road safely and uses activities such as road safety packs to reinforce the message. As a result children are developing an awareness of potential hazards and how to keep themselves safe. Children's welfare is well promoted as the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues, she is able to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse and is aware of the procedures for reporting. Children are supervised effectively and never left alone with persons who are not vetted. The childminder has high regard for the well-being of all children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The premises are very child-orientated with a playroom available specifically for this purpose. Toys are organised on shelves and at low-level so that children can help themselves, this promotes their independence and enables them to use their initiative and make decisions. They spend their time purposefully engaged in a variety of activities and opportunities both within the home and outside. They enjoy visits to the zoo, taking the train to local areas of interest and picnics in the park. The childminder has a good understanding of child development and this benefits the children; she is aware of each child's differing level of ability and ensures this is provided for. They enjoy creating pictures and experimenting with different textures such as paint, glue and dough. Dressing-up, play figures and small cars provide imaginary play opportunities. Children ask questions and use their initiative and the childminder offers appropriate challenge. For instance, opportunities are taken during role play for children to learn early maths and literacy skills, as they make shopping lists and use these to count out items. The broad range of play offered helps children to progress in all areas of learning and ensures the time they spend at the setting is varied and exciting.

Children have formed strong bonds with the childminder. She is a caring role model who is warm and friendly in her interaction. Children receive a good level of attention and demonstrate that they feel secure and loved. They happily approach her for cuddles, fall asleep on her lap and confidently ask for help when needed. She finds out about their likes and dislikes and

consistently uses praise and encouragement. This positive interaction promotes their interest and learning. They are encouraged to be part of group activities with other children, attending organised sessions with the childminder such as playgroups, soft play sessions and various trips and outings. This is beneficial as they develop their social skills and learn to make positive relationships. The childminder has begun to implement the 'Birth to three matters' framework in her practice for children under three years old and has attended the relevant training. She also attends regular training events to extend her personal development and further develop her practice, this enhances the outcomes for children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for because the childminder works effectively with parents. This ensures their needs are met and they are fully included. Settling in sessions are arranged before children commence so that they are happy and secure enough to be left with the childminder. As a result they settle well in the setting and display confidence and ease with the childminder and her routine. Time is dedicated to talk with parents about their child's individual needs and requirements. Daily discussion takes place to ensure parents are kept fully informed about their child's routine, progress and general well-being. The childminder has limited experience of providing care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, but has a good knowledge and understanding of children's developmental stages. Consequently, she is able to approach parents if concerned about a child and obtain appropriate support to ensure that they can make progress. Children are becoming aware of wider society as the childminder uses a range of resources and activities to stimulate discussion about people's similarities and differences. For example, how people live different lifestyles and celebrate different festivals. This helps children develop an open mind and understanding of the needs and feelings of others.

Children are beginning to understand responsible behaviour and respond well to the childminder's clear behaviour management strategies. House rules are in place and shared with children and parents, there is a behaviour policy with a copy given to parents. This supports the childminder's practice. She sets clear and consistent boundaries. When children display unwanted behaviour she talks to them at a level appropriate to their understanding. Younger children are distracted or removed from the situation. She encourages consideration and respect for others and is a positive role model. They receive constant praise and encouragement and this helps them to develop good self-esteem. She has established good partnerships with parents and this helps to promote the learning and welfare of the child. Comments received from parents are very positive and demonstrate how pleased they are with the service they receive. Good documentation is made available about the childminder's practice. A notice board in the playroom contains useful information and parents receive their own copies of each policy. The childminder treats children and parents with respect and consideration.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are protected and cared for by a childminder with sound knowledge and understanding of child development. They feel at home and relaxed in the child-friendly environment where they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Their independence is promoted as the premises are well organised. Space and resources are laid out to maximise play opportunities for children, toys are well presented and accessible, this encourages independence

and self-selection. Children are encouraged to freely explore their surroundings and can do so safely due to good supervision and safe equipment.

Appropriate vetting procedures are implemented and positive steps are taken to ensure that any persons who have contact with the children are suitable persons. All documentation is very well maintained and presented. Records include relevant details and are regularly updated. Confidentiality is maintained concerning any discussion held and written records are stored appropriately. This has a positive impact on the quality of care provided.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Further resources have been acquired and children learn through discussion and play. As a result they develop a greater understanding of equality issues and peoples differences and similarities. She was asked to increase her knowledge of current legislation and requirements, especially to ensure ratios are maintained at all times. This has been addressed and children benefit from appropriate adult: child ratios that support their care, learning and play.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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

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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):

- obtain appropriate parental permission in respect of children using the trampoline and ensure manufacturers guidelines are adhered to.

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