

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY360920
Inspection date 05 August 2008
Inspector Dianne Lynn Sadler

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 outstanding. 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 three children aged three, five and seven years in 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 three children at any one time and is currently minding twelve children aged from birth to eight years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder supports children with a disability and/or learning difficulties. The family has a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health is significantly enhanced because the childminder has established and meticulously implemented well-written policies, procedures and records. She gives high priority to providing a clean, healthy and hygienic environment and her practice reflects environmental health and hygiene guidelines. For example she and the children check and record the

temperature of foods before they are served at mealtimes. This enables children to share responsibility and actively contribute to their good health. They also place items such as apple cores in the compost bin and they understand the need to wash hands before and after toileting to remove germs. The risk of cross-infection is reduced by children using liquid soap and paper towels.

Children are very well nourished. They enjoy an excellent range of meals, snacks and drinks that actively promote children's growth and development. Meals which includes pasta, fresh fruit and vegetables are recorded well on a wipe board in the kitchen. Children help themselves to fruit such as plums, apples and bananas and their own well-labelled water bottles throughout the day, which helps to ensure they are well-hydrated. The childminder has an extremely good awareness of special dietary requirements which include parents' wishes for weaning babies. This ensures children's individual dietary needs are met very well according to the wishes of parents.

Children become engrossed in a wide range of purposeful outdoor activities which provide high levels of challenge appropriate to the age and stage of development. They enjoy collecting tadpoles from the pond and taking them indoors to observe the changes made as they turn into frogs. Children eagerly show visitors around the interesting and stimulating garden. They point out the compost bin and the vegetables and fruit they are helping to nurture. They are able to eat the rhubarb for tea and they offer visitors white currants to sample. This helps them to learn how to lead a healthy lifestyle. They also take part in well-planned indoor activities, such as music and movement sessions, which develops control of their bodies. Children access fresh air and exercise daily. They are able to play in the garden, regularly go out on walks with the dog and fly kites in the park. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs. Babies sleep in a cot in the playroom which provides a peaceful environment and older children can rest by selecting quieter activities such as watching the television in the lounge.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. The imaginative use of space available by the childminder ensures children can move around freely, safely and independently. This helps them to settle and feel confident. Children enjoy playing in a very stimulating playroom which has a low-level mirror, posters on the wall and colourful cushions and a mat where they can read or listen to music. Children benefit from robust procedures which are diligently followed by the childminder to ensure they are kept safe. She has an excellent awareness of all hazards indoors and outdoors, which significantly minimises the risk of accidental injury. Children actively contribute to the development of safety routines. They confidently explain why it is important to hold onto the banister when walking up stairs and why there are stair gates at the foot of the stairs. Older children have an excellent understanding of safety and explain why the bathroom cabinet has been removed and know that putting a child catch on the door will keep younger children safe.

Children have access to a superb range of very good quality furniture and play equipment suitable to meet their different needs. Children are able to access these freely and safely, which fosters their independence and choice. Toys are stored in boxes and on shelves at the children's level in all areas of the premises. The childminder uses effective methods to ensure that toys and resources are well maintained and suitable for all ages of the children present.

Children are protected from harm and their welfare promoted effectively because the childminder has an excellent understanding of her role in child protection. She follows a comprehensive policy and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children relish their time in the setting and settle and play extremely well. The childminder is able to give them exceedingly good support and shares her time equally between them all. She ensures all their needs are met successfully. Children are extremely confident and self-assured. They confidently talk to unfamiliar adults and to the childminder about the environment and what they are doing. This also develops successful relationships.

Children are fully involved in an exciting range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate play opportunities, which provide optimal challenge. A flexible daily routine has been devised by the childminder which includes planned activities as well as child-initiated experiences. Children develop high levels of imagination and curiosity and use all of their senses to actively explore a stimulating range of new experiences. For instance, they thoroughly enjoy investigating what happens to dry cereal when water is added observing the changes made to the texture and shape. They develop their imagination and knowledge of the wider world as they visit a local art gallery and then create their own paintings out of wood block stamps and paint. The childminder has a very good understanding of children's individual interests which are successfully used to capture children's learning. For instance, some children are developing an interest in trains, therefore all the children enjoy a visit to the local train station. They find out how to purchase a ticket and eagerly investigate the routes of trains using maps. Some children link the experience to home when discussing how daddy travels to London to work using a train.

Children's next steps in learning is successfully planned based on their individual interests. The childminder observes children's development and records the children's progress in a number of ways. For example, each child has a sheet entitled 'What have we done today' in their development files. This shows the experiences and activities they have participated in and is shared with parents. Children have also developed a memory book. This shows photographs of them at play. Older children develop their literacy skills by writing a simple caption beneath the photograph to explain what they were doing.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are valued, respected as individuals and treated with equal concern. Their individual needs are met extremely well. The childminder gathers information which is recorded at the time of placement which details, for example, care routines, culture, dietary requirements, likes and dislikes. This ensures all children including those who have a disability and/or learning difficulties are supported and included throughout the setting. All children have access to the resources and opportunities available. Children are encouraged to voice their opinions by completing a 'child evaluation form'. With the help of their parents they are able to share what they like and dislike about the provision and contribute to the decisions made about their care and education.

Children enjoy experiences and access a wide range of resources which help them to learn about the wider world. For instance, they read about the lifestyles of peoples in Peru in a magazine

and discuss the lifestyle of a child whom the childminder sponsors who lives in Zambia. They also enjoy learning about different celebrations and festivals. For instance, for Chinese New Year they make origami structures out of paper, observe Chinese dancing and try different Chinese foods at tea time.

Children have an excellent understanding of responsible behaviour. They play extremely well together, sharing resources and are respectful in their interactions with others. For example, older children show a great deal of care and concern as they eagerly help younger children to drink from a cup at mealtimes. The childminder is very calm and shows a caring attitude towards children. She gives them lots of praise and encouragement and promotes positive behaviour by giving children a sticker for their achievements.

The childminder gives utmost priority in promoting superb relationships with parents and works in partnership with them. This ensures children receives excellent care which is consistent with home. Information is shared daily with parents to ensure they are made aware of the provision and the activities their children participate in. This is further enhanced by the use of written daily diaries. Parents also benefit from accessing a folder which details information about the childminder's qualifications, checks undertaken and an informative prospectus which includes all of the setting's policies and procedures. Parents are encouraged to complete written feedback questionnaires. They state that the childminder is aware of health issues and links closely with the community.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is significantly enhanced by exceptional organisation. The childminder has given extensive consideration to providing purposeful experiences for the children and using the space effectively. Therefore children benefit from accessing a dynamic environment where they flourish and are supported to develop their full potential. The childminder is constantly improving her knowledge and understanding by undertaking training. This ensures children are cared for by a knowledgeable and highly motivated adult. She is committed to reflecting upon her practice and makes changes to further improve experiences for all the children. She has an exceptionally high regard for the well-being of children and arrangements successfully promote their health, safety and enjoyment. Her highly supportive manner ensures children feel at home and at ease. They are exceedingly confident and able to make choices and decisions about their care and learning.

Exemplary policies, records and procedures are in place, and support the expert practice of the childminder. This ensures children's welfare, care and learning is successfully promoted according to the wishes of their parents. All documentation is shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. All documents are reviewed regularly and stored securely.

Overall provision meets needs of the range of children who attend.

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 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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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