



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	123906
Inspection date	16 November 2005
Inspector	Angela Hufton
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in 1992. She lives with her husband and 5 children in a terraced house in the Newark area of Nottinghamshire. The home is situated within walking distance of the town centre. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, with toileting and sleep facilities within this area. There is an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play. The family has 2 budgerigars as pets. The childminder is registered to care for 3 children under 8 years of age and currently cares for 3 children on a part-time basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a suitably clean home where they learn about personal hygiene through the daily routine. For example, they begin to learn to wash their hands after using the toilet. Accident details are not recorded, negatively affecting the welfare of children. This means that parents are not fully informed nor does it meet regulatory requirements. The childminder does, however, maintain a first aid certificate to ensure children receive appropriate treatment. The good health of children is maintained and the risk of spread of infection is satisfactorily reduced because the childminder discusses her verbal 'sick child' policy with parents.

Children benefit from nutritious meals and learn about healthy options through regular access to fresh vegetables and snacks of fruit. They have opportunities to try new foods such as figs and children with special dietary requirements receive meals that meet their needs. Children have sufficient drinks to ensure they are not thirsty. They enjoy regular opportunities to be active outdoors and develop an understanding of the importance of exercise for their health. They particularly like 'collecting conkers' and walking by the canal.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a home that is suitably secure, warm and welcoming. They use toys and equipment that are safe because the childminder carries out regular maintenance checks and removes toys that are damaged. Children's risk of accidental injury is satisfactorily minimised through the childminder's close supervision and use of some safety measures. For example, a travel cot is used to keep young children safe when taking other children to the toilet. However, not all hazards have been clearly identified to ensure children are safe at all times, such as preventing their access to exercise equipment or bricks and building materials in the garden.

Children learn to keep themselves safe through clear explanations from the childminder, such as why they should be sensible when walking near roads. They are well protected in the event of a fire. Advice from the fire service has been acted on; smoke alarms are appropriately positioned and regularly maintained. Practices are carried out with the children to ensure they are aware of evacuation procedures. Children's welfare is satisfactorily safeguarded in the event of child protection concerns. The childminder has a sound knowledge of possible signs, however, she is not confident regarding local procedures and guidance.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and at ease in the childminder's home. They enjoy warm, friendly relationships with the childminder and show confidence as they move around the home. They respond to the childminder's praise and encouragement, for example, young children with English as an additional language are confident to try new words. Children access some first hand experiences, such as music activities, decorating cakes and listening to stories that interest them. Children generally enjoy themselves, but as yet the childminder has not fully considered what younger children can learn through play activities. Therefore their developmental progress is not maximised. Resources are suitably organised to be inviting to children and allow them to access independently.

The childminder plans weekly routines based around school runs and children's differing patterns of attendance. She takes younger children on outings, for example to the park to broaden their experiences. Children rest according to their individual routines, and older children are provided with opportunities for quiet times, such as when they look at books with the childminder. All children are generally occupied and purposefully engaged, including choosing interactive shape sorters or joining in with songs during their favourite television programmes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children begin to learn about the wider community through access to a basic range of play opportunities and resources. However, these are not sufficiently planned to promote children's understanding of the similarities and differences between others across all areas of diversity. Children with special needs are appropriately supported.

Children are well behaved; they play cooperatively with others and respond to appropriate methods for managing behaviour. For example, effective use of distraction and praise supports children learning what is acceptable behaviour. They begin to learn right from wrong through clear explanations from the childminder, such as gentle reminders to share. Children benefit from the childminder's close relationship with their parents. The children's general welfare is promoted through daily discussions with parents and written contracts.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children have appropriate access to play activities and resources because space within the home is effectively organised to allow children free movement and independent choices. They have high levels of support and supervision for their needs, enabling them to feel secure and confident in the setting.

Children benefit from the childminder's awareness to update her knowledge to improve the service offered. All children are protected from unvetted persons. Their welfare is generally promoted because some documentation is in place and adequately maintained. Relevant permissions are in place, including for outings and

to transport in a vehicle. Children's continued well being is supported through information being shared with parents on a daily basis about how their child has been. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection the childminder agreed to four recommendations. She agreed to practise a fire evacuation plan. This is now regularly practised with the children, promoting their safety in the event of a fire. The other recommendations related to: maintaining accident and medication records; improving knowledge of child protection procedures; minimising children's access to hazards. Limited progress has been made in these areas, consequently, they have been carried forward for continued attention and improvement to promote the safety and welfare of the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints made to Ofsted since the last Children Act inspection. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which can be seen 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 satisfactory. 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):

- develop planning to take account of children's individual needs, including play opportunities to learn about the wider world, using the 'Birth to three matters' framework to guide this planning
- take positive steps to promote children's safety, within the home and garden
- ensure you are familiar with current child protection procedures and guidance
- ensure all required records are in place and accurately maintained, including registers, accident records and medication records.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk