



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY256274
Inspection date	28 July 2006
Inspector	Patricia Bowler
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 2003. She lives with her husband and three children aged eight, three and a baby of seven months in Long Eaton, Nottinghamshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group. The family has a pet cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and is an active member of a local childminding support group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children receive excellent levels of care through diligent routines effectively maintained by the childminder. Robust cleaning routines ensure a clean and healthy environment is provided for children. A range of household products including anti bacterial sprays ensure children are protected from the spread of infection. Toys and play resources are washed regularly and children join in this process, for example bathing doll's and washing doll's clothes

Exceptional policies and procedures are established and followed so children learn about personal hygiene. They independently wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. They have their own hand towels and know to use these "so germs don't get mixed up". They address their own personal needs as they are actively supported in doing this to increase their independence and self-esteem.

Comprehensive documentation is completed with parents to accurately record children's individual health and dietary requirements. Clear procedures ensure that any accidents children have are managed appropriately as the childminder has sound knowledge of first aid, available first aid equipment and clear recording systems.

Children benefit from regular opportunities for physical activities and are skilled at using a range of indoor and outdoor equipment. For example, they ride wheeled toys and are gaining in skills to pedal and steer. Younger children walk to local schools to collect children. They often visit local recreational facilities where they are able to climb and balance on large equipment. They are also able to run freely to develop their coordination skills as they enjoy the fresh air. They attend a variety of local groups including a weekly music session where they learn to appreciate listening and moving to music as they gain control of their bodies.

Food is hygienically prepared and children enjoy the meals provided. Meticulous arrangements ensure the meals are suitable and children assist in choosing foods. A varied range of foods are provided to encourage children to develop healthy eating habits. They enjoy a variety of healthy snacks between meals including fresh fruit. Healthy options are available for babies with low sugar and salt foods available. Drinks are readily accessible for children to have when they require. They have their own drink container and choose from diluted juice and water.

Children sleep and rest in a cool room away from the main play room. The temperature is thermostatically controlled and curtains are drawn to create a peaceful environment. Excellent arrangements ensure they are comfortable and are closely monitored to enhance their safety and well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from vigilant procedures including a systematic risk assessment and health and safety policy to provide a safe and secure environment. Effective arrangements ensure the

outside play area is safe and meticulous security ensures children are not able to leave the premises unsupervised.

Excellent safety equipment including socket covers, cupboard locks where hazardous materials are stored and door stops minimises potential hazards. Exemplary organisation of space and resources allow children to access these freely and safely to significantly promote their independence and choice. Very effective methods ensure that toys and resources are well maintained and suitable for the age of the children present.

Children actively assist in tidying away toys before accessing others to avoid too many toys becoming a trip hazard. They learn about keeping themselves safe and engage in meaningful discussions about necessary routines including sitting at organised table activities and during meals. Appropriate fire safety equipment is available and vigilant arrangements for emergency evacuation, including regular fire drills equip children with the knowledge of what to do if the need arises. Excellent arrangements are established for outings including procedures to be followed in the event of a child becoming lost. Children learn to keep themselves safe on outings and have very good awareness of road safety. Road safety packs are used to heighten children's awareness as they share these with the childminder. They speak earnestly about using pedestrian crossings in order to keep themselves safe.

Children are well protected from harm because the childminder clearly understands her role in child protection and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary. She has attended child protection training and various other courses to further enhance her own working practice and knowledge. She has established a very detailed written policy to ensure parents are fully informed of her commitment and responsibility to protect children from significant harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

A substantial range of toys and play resources are readily accessible to children. Innovative planning provides them with exciting opportunities to make active choices about their play and promote their natural curiosity. Excellent indoor and outdoor activities provide appropriate levels of challenge to build confidence and self-esteem. Children are highly motivated and make use of exciting and appealing activities to learn and extend their knowledge and use their initiative to build and extend their play. For example, a minded child independently filled a dolls bath using the hose pipe. She knows to release the trigger to stop the water. She carefully washed the doll and then extended this as she tenderly applied pretend cream and talc. She persevered in dressing the doll asking for help with difficult items. She delights in her achievement as she accomplishes releasing both actions necessary to put the toy pushchair down after taking her for a walk.

Children have excellent communication skills. They eagerly express their thoughts and feelings and talk with confidence about things they have done. They enjoy sharing a photograph album and recall past activities. A minded child gleefully points out photographs of her birthday celebrations. She indicates the birthday cake stating proudly that the childminder made it especially for her.

Children ask questions confidently and listen intently to the answers given. They flourish in the caring, stimulating creative environment where they are highly valued as individuals. Children's overall development is significantly enhanced through the childminders committed approach. She has attended both levels of the 'Birth to three' framework training and uses this effectively to enhance the care for younger children. Children develop good social interaction and have warm relationships with known adults. They respond positively to the childminder's consistent use of praise and encouragement

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Extremely effective relationships with parents ensure the childminder knows the children very well. Children receive excellent care appropriate to their needs because meticulous arrangements ensure their individual needs are discussed and recorded. Systematic methods ensure both parties are fully informed. For example, through precise documentation, a comprehensive parents information pack and individual diaries to record daily events. The childminder has recently introduced child development records which accurately record children's progress and are regularly shared with parents.

The childminder has attended Equal Opportunities training and has a clear, comprehensive written policy which works very effectively in practice to promote the individual needs of all children. They play an active part in decision making and recently chose and went with the childminder to purchase new equipment for the outside play house. This ensures their views are valued and included to significantly enhance their sense of well-being.

Children receive warm cuddles and affection and build sensitive and trusting relationships with the childminder contributing to their excellent sense of belonging. Children with additional needs are cared for extremely well as the childminder liaises closely with parents. She is highly motivated to meet their individual needs and takes appropriate action such as attending a course on communication difficulties when concerned about specific issues. Sensitive arrangements ensure all children are fully included in all aspects within the home. The childminder has a comprehensive written policy reflecting her strong commitment to ensure she provides quality care for all children.

Children make active decisions about their play, making choices to develop their confidence and self-esteem. They develop an acute awareness of the needs of others as they help each other and learn to share and take turns. They play confidently alone and socially and ask for appropriate help if required. Children are learning about the community in which they live as they engage in local walks and various outdoor activities. An excellent range of appropriate play resources provide opportunities for them to develop an awareness of other cultures, disability and the wider world in which they live. For example, family sets in the doll's house reflect different cultures and a superb range of reference books enable children to extend their knowledge and understanding.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. A strong emphasis is placed on promoting positive behaviour and successful methods are adapted effectively to meet the ages and developmental stages of

all children. Children listen intently to the childminder and respond positively to her consistent use of praise and encouragement.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The childminder has high regard for the well-being of children. Arrangements identified in written prospectus and through comprehensive written records promote children's, health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution.

Space and resources are organised successfully and spontaneous and inspired activities provide children with interesting and exciting experiences to broaden their overall development. Children are stimulated and motivated to learn in the rich and vibrant environment. They enjoy innovative play experiences to promote their natural curiosity and imagination to play independently and with others. Children benefit from the childminders unquestionable commitment to her role. Her professionalism and exemplary documentation describes the service she provides and is completed to ensure children's individual needs are recognised and successfully met. She maintains a high level of confidentiality through policies including reference to data protection.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was requested to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

Since this inspection the childminder has made positive moves in this area to increase her toys and resources to promote positive images of culture and disability. The doll's house has family sets from different nationalities, role play resources include baby doll's to reflect different cultures and a wide range of books give children excellent opportunities to increase their awareness of how people live in different countries. The childminder is vigilant when purchasing new equipment to ensure positive consideration is given to further enhance the considerable resources already available.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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