



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	258027
Inspection date	21 March 2006
Inspector	Melanie Calway

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1997. She lives with her husband and 2 children, aged 13 and 8 years in a small village near to the town of King's Lynn. The whole of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. She drives to take and collect children from local schools and takes children for walks in the village and on occasional outings. The family keeps a dog as a pet.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently

minding eight children, all of whom attend 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 inadequate.

Children's health is not promoted adequately. There are some sound hygiene procedures in place. The childminder uses disposable gloves for changing nappies, wipes the mat between changes and disposes of nappies hygienically. She has a system in place for cleaning toys on a regular basis. However the environment is not maintained to an adequate standard. This is because the large family dog accesses freely the areas where the children play, sleep and eat. Children sit and lie on furniture where the dog has been and leave their drinking beakers on the floor near the dog. At times the dog is confined to the back porch but at others children are left for short periods in the same room as the dog without direct supervision. Children's hands are wiped before snack and meal times but they are not learning about the importance of good hygiene through the daily routine as they are not learning how to wash their hands and explanations are not given about why they need to keep clean.

Children's medical needs are met as the childminder has a current First Aid qualification so that she can deal with minor accidents and injuries appropriately. Two first aid kits are kept in the kitchen and she keeps one in her car. The medication record is accurately maintained and children's records include relevant information about children's health needs. Consent for emergency treatment or advice has not been obtained to enable the childminder to seek help in an emergency. Children are protected from the risk of infection as parents are aware that they should not bring sick children to the setting.

Children are able to move about freely in the large living room but opportunities for outdoor play are limited as the garden is not currently being used. The childminder takes them on walks in the village every two or three days. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs in a travel cot upstairs or on the sofa. The childminder respects their routines.

Children are well nourished. The childminder provides a healthy snack of fruit and parents provide packed lunches of sandwiches and fruit. The childminder prints a menu to inform parents of what snacks are being offered. Children's dietary needs are met as the childminder obtains the relevant information. Explanations are not given to children to enable them to learn about a healthy diet. Children are able to access drinks of squash at all times but fresh drinking water is not readily accessible.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe environment. The premises are made welcoming

because the childminder puts out a selection of toys which children can easily access. The premises are secure. Both doors are kept locked with keys hanging nearby. Children have sufficient space to move around within the large living room which is used as a play room. Children access a good range of appropriate toys. The childminder checks toys regularly for safety.

Children are kept safe as necessary equipment is in place. A stair gate restricts access to upstairs. There are some trailing wires in the hall way and some missing socket covers which could cause a potential hazard. Children are generally well supervised and some explanations are given to children about safety rules so they begin to learn how to keep themselves safe. Children are safe on outings as the childminder takes emergency numbers and a first aid kit with her. However written permissions for outings and transport have not been obtained from all of the parents, although they have given their verbal consent. Children are protected from the risk of fire as there is a fire evacuation plan in place, which the childminder discusses with children so that they know what to do in the event of a fire.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has the relevant information on child protection procedures and would seek advice if she had a concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are offered a satisfactory range of activities. They can choose from a range of toys which are put out for them and which they can easily access at floor level. They can play with craft activities on a low table in the living room or in the kitchen. Children are able to ask for toys not already out and the childminder will respect their choices. Children's self-esteem is promoted as the childminder gives them praise, talks kindly to them and gives them re-assurance when they need it. Children are confident in approaching the childminder for support. Children are given satisfactory levels of challenge. Children enjoy drawing on tea-pot shaped cards for mother's day and show them proudly when they have finished. The childminder sits with the children at a threading activity and talks to them about the different colours. Children's independence skills are promoted satisfactorily. They can get their drinks when they need to and get out the mat for nappy changing. Children form positive relationships with the childminder and with each other and play happily together throughout the morning. Children under three are cared for appropriately most of the time. The childminder has the 'Birth to three matters' framework pack and refers to it occasionally. Some activities for under threes are not well organised to enable children to participate independently and get the most out of them. An activity for children to make clay imprints of their hands is carried out on the kitchen work top which is too high for children to reach. They have to be held up and this limits the extent to which the children can enjoy the activity and explore the materials independently.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are met because the childminder knows them and their routines well. Children's records include details of likes and dislikes, comforters and dietary needs to enable the childminder to care for them effectively. Children are learning about the wider world as resources reflect other cultures and abilities. Children with special needs are included in the setting and the childminder works with parents and other agencies to ensure their needs are met. Children behave well. They are encouraged to share. The childminder talks kindly to them and encourages them to say "please" and "thank you". She promotes positive behaviour by praising them when they are helpful or kind.

Partnership with parents is satisfactory. The childminder exchanges information with parents about children's routines at collection times. She has developed a complaints procedure but has not set up a complaints record in line with recent changes in regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder has undertaken the relevant checks and training to enable her to care for children. She ensures that unauthorised persons do not have access to children. She has obtained the necessary information to be able to cater for their individual routines. An attendance register is kept with times of children's arrival and departure. Children have sufficient space to play and can move around freely downstairs. However the premises are not organised to promote children's health effectively. Not all of the necessary documentation is in place. Children's records are maintained in a confidential manner and some information has been produced for parents but this is not kept in a well ordered fashion to make it easily accessible to them. Overall children's needs are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to address safety issues in the living room relating to the fire guard and low level glass. These have now been addressed and children can play safely in the living room.

Complaints since the last inspection

In January 2006 Ofsted received a complaint passed on from Childminding Matters relating to National Standard 2: Organisation - about the childminder exceeding the numbers of children on her registration certificate. An unannounced visit was carried out on 31/01/2006. The childminder was found to have been over minding on a number of occasions. Two actions were set: to ensure the records relating to children are always available for inspection and to ensure the attendance register includes the hours that children attend. The actions have been met and the childminder remains qualified for registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they

can see on request. The complaint's 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- implement good hygiene practices to maintain all areas of the premises in a hygienic condition and to make sure that the dog does not pose a health risk to the children
- promote the good health and hygiene of children and encourage them to learn through the daily routine; provide opportunities and give explanations for hand washing, healthy diets and drinks
- obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.
- obtain written consent from parents for outings and transport, create a complaints log and organise all documentation so that it is accessible to parents.

These actions are set out in a ***notice of action to improve*** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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