



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	208566
Inspection date	28 April 2005
Inspector	Melanie Arnold

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 1995. She lives with her husband and two daughters aged 13 and 11 in Boston. The whole house is used for childminding with most activities taking place on the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and there are currently seven children under eight years and four children over eight years on roll. Children attend either part time, before and after school or during school holidays. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school

and also collects children from nursery. She takes children on regular outings to play areas, local places of interest and for walks.

The childminder is a member the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from good physical play opportunities, which are provided for them within the childminder's garden and on weekly outings to activity areas. Within the garden children have access to a good range of equipment to develop their physical skills including the use of a trampoline and climbing frame. Children are starting to learn good self care skills, as older children are encouraged to wipe their own faces independently after meals and younger children are helped appropriately. They are beginning to understand the importance of following good hygiene routines to help prevent the spread of infection. Children's dietary requirements, likes and dislikes are met through the childminder liaising closely with parents. They enjoy nutritious meals and snacks that promote their health and they are provided with a selection of fruits to choose from, at the end of each meal.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children remain safe within the childminder's care due to her effectively identifying potential risks and taking appropriate steps to minimise these. Children have access to a good range of toys that are well maintained. Younger children only have access to resources that are appropriate to their age/stage of development as toys are stored well within the playroom. Children are beginning to understand how to keep themselves safe as they are encouraged to report any damage or broken equipment to the childminder who then disposes of it appropriately. Older children willingly take responsibility for their own and others' safety as they play with small toys at the table to ensure they do not pose a hazard to the younger children. Children are kept safe on outings and in the home because of the effective procedures the childminder implements. To further promote children's health and safety the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has also attended a child protection course to update her knowledge. She is fully aware of the procedure to take should she suspect child abuse and would act accordingly to ensure the child's welfare was maintained.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and confident within their environment. They play well with the toys and enjoy the childminder engaging in play with them. Children respond well to the childminder and they relate well to each other, playing independently and

alongside their peers. They have access to a wide range of resources, which meets their needs. The childminder follows a basic daily routine where children learn through play. Children's skills are developed through the effective use of learning opportunities during everyday occurrences, for example, counting how many grapes children have got at lunch time. However, younger children are not fully reaching their potential in all areas of development as they are offered less opportunities for creative activities. Children are developing good social and physical skills through regular outings. Children's language skills are developed well through the effective questioning techniques used by the childminder. They are able to recall past events and happily share them with the group.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from appropriate attention to meet their individual needs because the childminder has implemented an effective procedure to ensure she gathers relevant information from parents. This enables her to provide appropriate care from the outset. Children behave well and their self esteem is promoted by the childminder's effective use of positive reinforcement. They have good manners and understand the importance of saying please and thank you appropriately. Children are valued and respected as individuals and the childminder is aware of the information she would need to gather concerning a child's special needs to ensure appropriate care could be provided to meet these needs. The childminder works in partnership with parents, which contributes significantly to children's well-being. She provides parents with good information concerning her practices through an informative portfolio and brochure. Parents are made fully aware of their child's progress as children's daily activities and information on how they have been is verbally exchanged with parents when they collect their child.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are relaxed and confident in the childminder's care. Space and resources are organised well to meet children's needs. Children benefit greatly as the childminder continues to extend her knowledge, undertaking further training to gain a greater understanding of current childcare practices. Records are completed appropriately and are updated yearly to ensure relevant information is maintained. Children's records containing personal information are stored to ensure confidentiality is maintained. The childminder liaises closely with parents, with good information provided to keep them updated on her policies and procedures. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has updated her consent form to include parents' permission to allow their children to play upstairs unsupervised. This further

contributes to the effective relationships she has established with parents and ensures children's individual needs are met.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 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):

- further develop a suitable range of activities for younger children, ensuring all areas of development are promoted, for example by using the Birth to three matters framework.

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