



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY225395
Inspection date	25 May 2006
Inspector	Beverly Kemp-Russell
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 has been registered since 2000. She lives with her husband and three children aged eight, 11 and 14 years in Lincolnshire, close to local shops and schools. The whole house is used for childminding purposes with the exception of the main bedroom. There is a secure garden for outside play used by children under supervision.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding four children all of whom attend on part-time basis.

The family has a dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to children's health. There are planned outdoor activities to help them develop physical skills and develop body control. The local park is used regularly to ensure children have good opportunities for outside play.

Children are cared for in a warm clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Children follow sound hygiene routines and their understanding of regular hand washing reduces the risk of cross-contamination. Children's health is promoted by the childminder holding a current first aid certificate and maintaining accident and medication records.

Children's dietary requirements, likes and dislikes are met through the childminder providing healthy drinks and snacks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a suitably well-maintained home where risks are identified and minimised. Children are able to move around freely. They access appropriate resources to meet their needs and the childminder ensures they are happy, relaxed and secure in the homely environment. However, the garden area is not currently free from hazards which compromises children's safety.

Children can independently select from a sound range of toys and play resources, which meet safety standards. Children's safety is promoted by the childminder carrying out regular checks on toys and equipment. Children are supervised both indoors and outdoors, to ensure their safety at all times. Appropriate safety and fire fighting equipment is provided within the home and emergency evacuation procedures are practised with children.

Children's welfare is promoted by all the required procedures and documentation maintained by the childminder. She recognises her responsibilities towards the children in her care. She is adequately aware of child protection issues and the procedures to follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to select resources which develop their learning such as using the role play equipment and baking. Children can make their own choices and access a range of resources that are age-appropriate and which meet their needs. They experience a sound learning environment through activities provided by the childminder such as using play-dough and cutting and sticking activities.

Children's language skills are developed through the effective questioning techniques used by the childminder. Children are valued and the childminder listens and responds appropriately. The childminder includes younger children in activities to develop their skills but is not yet making full use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have equal access to play resources and activities to ensure their individual needs are met, but access to a range of activities and resources that promote anti-discriminatory practice and inform them about the wider world, are limited. The childminder is aware of the information she would need to gather to ensure the appropriate care of children with special needs.

Children's behaviour is good due to the childminder's consistent approach in promoting positive behaviour. Children show respect for themselves and others, encouraged by the childminder setting a good example. Children are calm in response to the childminder's relaxed manner.

The partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. Children's needs are met by daily verbal and written communication between the childminder and parents. Children are looked after according to parents' wishes and the childminder ensures she is aware of their opinions and attitudes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's needs are met by the way the childminder organises the room layout. Children are able to feel at home and at ease in this environment. Most policies and procedures are comprehensive and promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Parents are kept informed about the service provided by regular verbal communication. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Ofsted investigated a complaint by carrying out an unannounced inspection on 16/08/2005. The issues around the complaint related to national standard 6 - safety. They were discussed with the provider. As a result of the visit, the provider has renewed her safety policy. No further action required.

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.

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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):

- ensure the garden area is safe and free from hazards
- ensure that the 'Birth to three matters' framework is used effectively
- ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

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