



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	208978
Inspection date	22 April 2005
Inspector	Anne Barnsley

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 1998. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 11 and 8 in Branston, Lincolnshire. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding a total of 20 children at various times. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. .

The childminder supports children with special educational needs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive in this environment because the childminder implements stringent practices that effectively teach children about the importance of being healthy from a young age. Very young children independently use tissues without prompt and place them in the bin after use. As children grow older and develop greater levels of independence they enjoy helping to clear away after snacks and meals and wipe tables to help prevent germs. Comprehensive policies and procedures, that are shared with parents, avoid the spread of infectious illness.

Children are clearly beginning to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They are developing an appreciation of eating vegetables and eagerly demonstrate a willingness to try these. They derive great feelings of pleasure and satisfaction when they are commended for their efforts and their positive attitude and incentive is sustained with receiving stickers that make them feel proud. Children are able to choose from a range of healthy drinks. Throughout the day children enjoy a choice of fresh fruit and healthy snacks.

Children have exceptionally good experiences that develop their physical skills. Daily walks and outside play, and frequent trips to adventure parks and assault courses develop children's whole body movements. Access to an extensive range of resources and an excellent variety of activities develop and extend children's small body movements and skills. Children ask enthusiastically to play outside and eagerly gather their coats when it is time to collect older children from school. From a young age children develop bodily awareness and know that they need to take clothes off when they are hot and to put additional clothes on when they are cold. They understand their personal needs and know when they are tired, hungry or thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder undertakes thorough risk assessments and implements safety measures that effectively meet the needs of the children she is caring for. An exceptional commitment and dedication to ensuring children's safety is achieved by arranging building projects during holiday periods when children are not present. Children are able to move freely in a safe environment because the house is maintained and organised to an excellent standard. There are designated sleep areas with baby monitors to ensure that young children can sleep safely. Children enjoy being involved and valued for their help. They keep safety gates closed when these are in use for young children and are protective and mindful of the welfare and needs of their younger peers. Toys and resources are stored safely to account for the different ages and stages of children being cared for. This ensures that children are

able to choose independently from a safe variety. Children are learning how to prevent accidents by clearing toys from the floor when they have finished playing with them. They appreciate how to respect and care for their toys and inform the childminder if a toy gets damaged. Children understand road safety and stay close to the childminder when on outings and trips.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted as the childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place. She has a current first aid certificate and, through ongoing training, has a secure knowledge of child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children's preferences are highly respected by the childminder. Children are learning to care about each other and their belongings which enables them to contribute positively and have a sense of belonging. This is a secure and stable environment in which children are skilfully included in all areas of learning. Children learn through play, family routine and excellent levels of support and guidance. This is a stimulating and happy environment where children benefit from the extensive range and variety of toys, resources and activities. The children thoroughly enjoy being cared for by the childminder and openly demonstrate that she is fun, has wonderful things for them to do and cooks them nice meals. The rotation of toys maintains children's interest and provides increased scope when they are used in the future. Independence is promoted exceptionally well and children are confident and outgoing. Resources are stored in accessible units and children can self select and organise their own preferences and ideas. The childminder uses birth to three matters and also the foundation stage as a knowledge base for planning and extending learning opportunities for children. Children contribute greatly to planning during organised chat times through which they can identify areas of particular interest or preference. Younger children benefit from attending facilities that increase their social and interactive skills. Children who attend pre-school or school discuss the activities that they have been participating in and the childminder extends their learning through stimulating activities that are fun and support their understanding. Children are taken on outings and trips to places of interest and have excellent opportunities to talk about and share their experiences. Children are happy and confident to express themselves in this setting.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children have an extensive range of resources that enables them to learn about the wider world and diversity. Children are developing a positive understanding of others. Younger children are learning about differences and individuality through general play and regular exposure to resources that promote positive images.

Children's development is carefully monitored to ensure that their continuing needs

are realistically met. Their individual needs are catered for exceptionally well, through close liaison with parents, discussion with the children and observing children at play. Parents are kept very well informed about their child on a daily basis and records are kept current and comprehensively maintained. Children benefit greatly from their first hand experience of positive partnership between the childminder and their parents. Children behave very well. Expectations are realistic, clear and consistent so that children feel secure and confident in the setting. Children know what is expected of them and work in harmony as a family group. Older children help younger children and all children are learning to take responsibility for safety, resources and each others feelings. Children with special educational needs receive exceptionally high levels of support. The childminder ensures through ongoing training that she can provide for all children's needs to a very high standard.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from the childminder's proactive commitment towards training and updating her skills and knowledge. She has an in-depth knowledge of caring for children with special educational needs through her role as the Local Authority Special Needs Co-ordinator at her local school. She has recently completed further training in Behaviour Management and Special Needs and Physical Disability Awareness. Children of all ages and stages enjoy a broad range of activities as the childminder uses Birth to Three Matters and the Foundation Stage to assist with planning.

The setting is organised extremely well to ensure that children are secure and well cared for. Children are treated with exceptional kindness and valued as part of a family environment. They are relaxed, confident and have a sense of belonging. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has made exceptional progress to improve the service she provides for children by extending her range of resources and activities that promote a positive understanding of diversity and the wider world.

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 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 *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk