



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	258027
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Marianne Gascoyne
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 was registered in 1997. She lives with her husband and two children aged 13 and eight years in a small village near to King's Lynn.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding five children who attend on a full or part-time basis. The childminder also cares for children over the age of eight years. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and she has a dog.

The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children and takes children for walks in the locality. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has procedures in place to ensure the premises and equipment are clean and tidy prior to children's arrival to enable them to play in a suitable environment. Their health is generally promoted effectively as they begin to take responsibility for their own health needs. Children independently use the potty and are reminded to wash their hands at this time and before eating. Explanations are given regarding the need to 'kill the germs' to help develop children's understanding of effective hygiene practices. The use of individual towels and procedures in place for nappy changing reduce the risk of cross-infection. The childminder has the knowledge to give appropriate treatment should an accident occur and the recording of accidents and medication administration ensures the welfare of children. Arrangements have been made to ensure the dog does not present any health risk to children.

Children have opportunities to learn about healthy eating through a variety of fruit and raw vegetable snacks which they enjoy. Explanations given about the value of healthy foods helps their understanding. The weekly menu of daily snacks is displayed for parents and children are well nourished by these snacks and packed lunches provided by parents. Any allergies and likes or dislikes are clearly recorded to ensure children are at no risk of a reaction and enjoy the food they are given. Babies are held in comfort to enjoy their bottle feed. Babies' individual sleep and eating routines are respected. Children are reminded to drink on a regular basis to ensure they do not become dehydrated and water is available at all times.

Children enjoy walks and playing outside in the garden giving them access to fresh air and exercise. They enjoy ball games and playing with a variety of ride-on toys. The childminder also organises dancing to music and singing action songs to provide exercise.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are safe and secure in the welcoming premises. They are able to move freely in the large lounge and practice their independence skills through easy access to toilet facilities. They are able to gain direct access to the garden and requests to play outside are granted to meet children's needs. Toys are safe, well maintained and appropriate which ensures children's development is generally promoted successfully. However, learning opportunities could potentially be missed due to the storage of the toys which prevents children easily gaining access to items. Child sized tables and chairs enables children to sit and eat or play in comfort. Appropriate sleeping facilities are available for very young children to ensure they sleep well.

Risks are assessed within the home and action taken to minimise possible dangers, for example, a stairgate prevents younger children accessing the stairs. Garden gates are locked and access to the greenhouse prevented, although stacked paving slabs in the garden present a potential hazard to children. The fire evacuation procedure is displayed and practised to ensure children are aware of action to take if they need to leave the house in an emergency. Children are able to travel safely in the car using appropriate restraints and older children find out if they need

to use a booster seat by measuring themselves against a line clearly marked on the notice board. The childminder carries emergency numbers with her on outings and parents are given a mobile phone number to ensure she can be contacted. Written consent is obtained to take children in the car.

Children are well protected by the childminder's awareness of the procedures to follow if she has any concerns regarding their care or well-being. She has attended child protection awareness training to update her knowledge and ensures parents are aware of her responsibility to protect children by displaying the 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused' flow chart poster.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well occupied by the toys available to them and activities provided. The childminder balances the needs of babies and young children and ensures they are given appropriate opportunities and play activities. Children enjoy painting and the childminder enhances the activity by labelling their paintings clearly to develop their learning. Children are interested in the activities available and choose favourite toys and activities, for example, completing jigsaw puzzles, with the childminder's support. Children use their initiative when playing outside as they 'mend' the ride-on toys with a pretend screwdriver. Children are confident in approaching the childminder for assistance and she asks questions to develop their thinking skills. Children use dolls to imitate the care the childminder gives to babies and the childminder encourages this role play activity, for example, 'does your baby need feeding/her nappy changing too?' They are given a satisfactory level of challenge by the activities planned and organised by the childminder and toys provided.

Sound relationships are in place and the children get on well with the childminder and play happily indoors and out choosing the activities they wish to undertake. The childminder refers to the 'Birth to three matters' framework in her work with the children under three and is continuing to learn from the pack for the benefit of the children. Babies are encouraged to communicate and respond appropriately by the interaction of the childminder who maintains good eye contact and is physically close.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure in the care of the childminder with a good sense of belonging. Their self-esteem is enhanced by the praise and encouragement she gives. Their individual needs are identified through discussion with parents and information recorded in their records when they start. Children's needs are met by the childminder who knows them well which ensures they are happy in her care. The children are being helped to develop positive attitudes towards differences in people by the range of resources available to them. The childminder has a positive, proactive approach to the care of children with additional needs while recognising the need to consider if she is able to provide appropriate care for all the children if undertaking the care of a child with a disability.

The childminder believes in the positive management of behaviour and gives praise for the behaviour she wishes children to demonstrate. She provides an appropriate role model by her kind and caring manner and the use and encouragement of good manners. She gives explanations to help children understand the way to behave and strategies used are developmentally appropriate. Children respond by behaving well.

Positive, friendly relationships are in place with parents and information is exchanged verbally on a daily basis. A well-organised notice board provides parents with clear information including the action to take if they wish to make a complaint. A complaints log has been set up. She obtains full details from parents about the children to enable her to provide for their care. However, she does not have an agreement with parents setting out the expectations of both herself and parents to the care of the child, activities provided and business arrangements for the benefit of the children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is experienced and is able to provide a happy and secure environment for the children in her care. She has undertaken training in childcare and ensures everyone who has contact with the children is suitable to do so. She ensures she complies with the conditions of registration by displaying her certificate and also displays other relevant information such as her insurance certificate. She has a high regard for the well-being of the children who attend and ensures cover is available in an emergency and parents are made aware. Space in the home is organised and resources made easily available to ensure children's needs are able to be met and their independence skills practised.

Individual files have been set up for each child who is cared for and details are stored confidentially in a locked filing cabinet. Almost all the documentation is in place and easily accessible. Emergency contact numbers are also to hand when taking children out of the home.

Overall children's needs are met.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was set an action under Standard 7 to implement and maintain good hygiene practices and ensure that the dog does not pose a health risk to children; promote the good health and hygiene of children and encourage them to learn through the daily routine. The dog now spends much of the time at the childminder's parents' home or if in the house is kept in an area separate from the children's play area to ensure their welfare is not compromised. The house is cleaned prior to children's arrival and children are reminded to wash their hands as appropriate during the daily routine and explanations are given to help them learn why they need to do so. She was also asked to obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and this has now been obtained.

A further section of the action required the childminder to provide opportunities and give explanations regarding healthy diets and drinks. Children enjoy fruit or raw vegetables for

snacks and explanations given to them to help their understanding of a healthy diet. Drinks are accessible at all times and children are reminded to drink water to keep themselves healthy.

An additional action under Standard 14 required the childminder to obtain written consent from parents for outings and transport, to create a complaints log and organise documentation so that it is accessible to parents. Written consent has now been obtained from parents to take children on outings or in the childminder's vehicle, a complaints file has been set up with the documentation required to be logged. Each child has been given a file to contain all the information relating to that child and ensure confidentiality. Parents can have access to their child's file. Children's welfare is therefore safeguarded and all the actions have been met.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- organise toys and equipment to ensure they maximise opportunities for children to extend their learning
- ensure that hazards to the children in the garden are minimised with reference to stacked paving slabs
- put in place a written agreement with parents which sets out the expectations of both parties to the care of the child, activities provided and business arrangements.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)