



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY334511
Inspection date	06 September 2006
Inspector	Carly Mooney

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 was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and three children aged 12, eight and four in Boston, Lincolnshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house will be used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding one child under a year during the day and one child over 8 before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

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 are cared for in a warm, clean environment which enables them to feel secure and settled. Older children learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through routine activities, such as hand washing after playing in the garden. Effective procedures have been established when changing babies nappies which maintains the health and comfort of younger children. The childminder ensures she uses anti-bacterial evaporating hand wash before and after nappy changes to prevent cross-contamination. The childminder keeps accurate records of any accidents and is aware of any consents and records that need to be kept regarding the administration of medication, helping to safeguard children's medical well-being.

Children's dietary preferences are respected and catered for. The childminder provides snacks and meals for older children that are healthy and nutritious, such as fresh fruit. The babies milk and meals are provided by the parent and the childminder follows clear routines from home regarding these. Regular drinks are offered to the baby and older children can access drinks as and when they wish.

Children take part in a suitable range of activities that contribute to their good health and physical development. The childminder ensures children have fresh air and exercise through walks to the school and playing in her large garden using a range of equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a home where appropriate measures have been taken to keep children safe. For example, cupboard locks where dangerous substances are kept and socket covers. This allows children to move around freely in their environment and have independent access to a safe and suitable range of toys and play equipment. Children learn about keeping the play areas safe, in particular when the childminder is caring for a baby. For example, using another room to play with very small pieces of equipment to prevent a choking hazard. Children have been made aware of fire safety within the home through discussion and are aware of all exits and the whereabouts of important keys, such as the patio doors. Children are kept safe whilst travelling in the car as the childminder has appropriate child restraint seats and written permission from parents.

Children's safety and well-being is appropriately safeguarded through the childminder's clear understanding of child protection issues and procedures. She has the necessary guidance and her own written policy, informing parents of her duty to protect children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. The baby has formed a close relationship and enjoys lots of cuddles and attention from the childminder. The childminder plans her day around the baby's routine for sleeping and eating and knows which activities interest and stimulate her. For example, she enjoys toys which make a noise and so the childminder has made a secure bottle of coins for her to shake. However, the childminder is not aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework which can be used to further enhance the development of children under three. She is interested in how she can use this within her provision.

Older children enjoy a range of activities after school, such as play dough, colouring and snooker. The childminder states that in good weather the children prefer to play and explore in the garden, where she has noticed that they use their imaginations to provide them with interesting play opportunities. The childminder understands the needs of older children and provides them with immediate refreshments after school and a quiet place to rest and relax if they wish.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The welcoming premises and the childminder's friendly personality makes children feel happy, safe and secure. The children's individual needs are met by the childminder who provides appropriate care. She works closely with parents to gain a good understanding about their child as an individual and works hard to make all children's attendance a positive one. A written equal opportunities policy is shared with parents. However, the childminder has a limited selection of toys and resources which reflect positive images of gender, culture, diversity and disability, therefore limiting children's ability to learn about the wider world.

The childminder states that older children generally behave well in her care. She applies appropriate behaviour management techniques to help children gain an understanding of right and wrong. The childminder sets house rules and boundaries from the beginning of minding for older children to follow and respect. Praise and encouragement is given to all children to build their self-esteem, such as claps and smiles when interacting with the baby.

Positive relationships have formed between parents and the childminder. She ensures they receive daily feedback about their child's day either verbally or through a daily diary for younger children. This is written from the point of view of the child and is helpful and amusing for the parents to read. The childminder is also keeping an album of photographs to capture children's development which is shared with the parents. Children's care and welfare is further promoted by some written policies and procedures in a parent's leaflet.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall children's needs are met. The childminder organises her time and premises sufficiently to ensure that children are happy and settled. They receive good levels of adult support to help meet their individual needs and engage in appropriate play opportunities both inside and out. She has completed the necessary training to become registered as a childminder, which ensures she has appropriate skills to effectively meet children's care needs.

The childminder maintains appropriate documentation and information. She uses standard recording materials provided by the National Childminding Association with other self-designed forms to ensure parents are kept informed on matters associated with their child. Essential documents are organised well and stored confidentially. Most records are up-to-date and contribute to the health, safety and welfare of the children. However, the daily attendance register is often not completed on a daily basis until after all the children have left, therefore the welfare of children is not fully safeguarded.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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

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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 that all children have access to an appropriate range of activities and resources which promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice
- ensure an accurate record of children's attendance is kept.

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