



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	405080
<b>Inspection date</b>	04 July 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Kathryn Margaret Clayton
<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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder first registered in 1991. She is registered to look after six children under the age of eight years and currently five children attend on a part-time basis throughout the week. The childminder lives with her husband and 12 year old daughter in a residential area of Scunthorpe. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor and a small enclosed garden. The family keep a cat as a pet. The childminder uses local facilities, such as the park, and takes children to local childminding events. The childminder has successfully completed the first level of the local authority 'Steps to Quality' assessment.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit because they are cared for in a clean home where they learn about the importance of maintaining personal hygiene. The risk to children's health is minimised as they learn about why they need to wash off germs. The childminder offers good encouragement by providing a very attractive soap dispenser and separate towels. All children are protected because the childminder makes sure parents are fully aware that she does not care for children when they are ill. Children are very active in the care of the childminder; they enjoy playing on bikes, a seesaw and slide in the garden. They walk regularly with the childminder, who makes sure they have opportunities to visit toddler groups, for example, where they can use equipment, such as a climbing frame.

Older children enjoy activities, such as playing golf, croquet, and with scooters and roller skates. They start to learn about keeping themselves safe in the sun as the childminder reminds them of the importance of wearing sun hats and makes sure their time outdoors is limited on very hot days. Children start to learn about the benefits of healthy eating as they are provided with snacks, such as fresh oranges, bananas and grapes during the day. The childminder is very effective in helping children to learn the importance of drinking regularly during hot weather. Children have immediate access to water and diluted juice and babies are actively encouraged to drink regularly.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a homely and secure environment with good access to outdoor play. They remain safe indoors as the childminder makes sure the home and garden are fully secure and she has a good range of safety equipment in place. The areas used by children are well maintained, cosy, comfortable and checked for safety before they arrive. Children are effectively encouraged to start to learn about maintaining their own safe boundaries, for example, as they are involved in the evacuation of the premises in the event of an emergency.

Children enjoy using a wide range of safe and suitable toys and play equipment. All toys are very well organised, readily available and can be easily identified by children as they are clearly labelled with words and pictures. Children particularly enjoy sharing books and playing with a good range of bangles and hair bobbles. Children are safeguarded because the childminder has a very good understanding of her responsibilities regarding child protection and the correct procedure to follow should she have any concerns.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident and at ease in the care of the childminder. They enjoy a good range of activities and are actively encouraged to initiate their own play. Children show good imagination, for example, as they take their dolls to the shops. They are interested in play and concentrate

very well. One example of this is when children spend some time successfully completing puzzles. The childminder is effective in encouraging children's learning, for example, to count the number of pieces in a puzzle, or hair bands when making a collection. Children enjoy a good range of outdoor activities, such as imaginative play in a playhouse, using a chalkboard, a water tray, bikes and push-along toys.

Children are effectively encouraged by the childminder to think about what they are doing. One example of this is when they are asked about what makes the water wheel move around. They use mathematical language correctly. The childminder plans a wide range of activities away from home, therefore extending children's experiences. They attend childminder's stay and play sessions, for example. Babies enjoy stimulating play, such as painting and exploring fibre optic tubes. The childminder makes sure babies and young children receive comfort and good support. All children benefit from having access to play materials that match their stage of development.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a very respectful and calm atmosphere. The childminder keeps a good range of photographs of the children who attend and also celebrates children's birthdays. This helps children to feel a sense of value and belonging. The childminder has a very good understanding of the individual children who attend and, therefore, she is able to effectively meet their needs. Children play with a good range of resources, for example, disabled play people, books, and cooking equipment in role play that help them to gain a positive understanding of diversity. They are also involved in the celebrations of events, such as Chinese New Year.

Children's behaviour is excellent. Praise and encouragement is one method used by the childminder to promote good behaviour. Children share exceedingly well, for example, when looking together at a storybook. They are happy and settled and want to attend because the childminder develops a very close partnership with parents and has good procedures to integrate children into her care. This is done on a very individual basis, with children being encouraged to come for short visits before they start to attend. The childminder has a complaints procedure for parents to use, however, it is not up to date and does not include a system to record, investigate and report on complaints made by parents relating to the National Standards.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit by being cared for by an experienced childminder who has made an excellent commitment to undertake additional qualifications and training and therefore continually improve the service she provides. The childminder is working towards successfully completing a qualification in Extending Childminding Practice. Recent training she has undertaken includes working with children with special needs, child protection awareness and planning for children's individual needs. Children benefit because the home is well organised. Children enjoy a good balance of indoor and outdoor play and have space to eat and sleep.

The childminder makes sure she uses her time effectively and in the best interests of the children. This promotes children's independence in initiating their own play. Documentation provides a good framework for the care of the children. It is readily available, very well organised, regularly reviewed and stored confidentially. There are a wide range of policies in place to support the childminding service. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

Not applicable.

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

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. There are no complaints to report since the last inspection.

### **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):

- devise a system to record, investigate and report on complaints made by parents relating to the National Standards.

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)