



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY332271
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Janice Broddle

<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 2006. She lives with her family, including her adult son, 11 year old son and twins aged under one year. The family live in Grantham, a 10 minute walk from the town centre. All areas of the property are used for childminding, although this mainly takes place on the ground floor. Toilet and sleeping facilities are available on the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has a pet cat.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children aged over five, on a daily basis, before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and has a vehicle available to take them on outings. She attends the local parent and toddler group and 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 and clean home where the childminder's high standards of cleanliness help to minimise the risk of spread of infection. She has first aid equipment available to deal with an emergency situation, however, she does not have written parental consent for urgent medical treatment which could compromise children's health. Children learn basic personal hygiene practices through daily routines which include hand washing before meals and after using the toilet.

Children have their dietary needs met because the childminder agrees arrangements regarding snacks and meals with parents and is aware of any allergies and their likes and dislikes. She provides cooked meals which she prepares using mainly fresh ingredients, and encourages children to eat fresh fruit and vegetables to contribute to their overall good health. Children access fresh air through the daily walk to and from school. Weather permitting, they access the garden where they practise their physical skills on the range of play equipment including a trampoline, slide and climbing equipment. Spacious indoor areas allow children to engage in physical activities indoors and they freely move around their identified play areas, exploring their equipment and enjoying physical games such as moving like animals.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. The childminder provides good levels of supervision, which minimises the risk of accidental injury and raises children's awareness of possible hazards through discussion. Appropriate fire precautions are in place along with an emergency evacuation plan; however, children have not yet had the opportunity to practise this which could compromise their safety. Children can easily and safely access their play materials and the childminder maintains these in a suitable condition so that they do not pose a risk to children.

Generally good procedures are in place to ensure that children remain safe when outside of the home. For example, when walking to and from school, children walk in an orderly manner, staying close to the childminder and they all hold on to the push chair to cross the road. The childminder has clear routines which ensure children are safely delivered to, and collected from, their classrooms. The childminder promotes children's welfare through her knowledge and understanding of her responsibilities regarding child protection and has contact numbers readily to hand if required.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are content and settled in the childminder's home and are developing warm relationships with her and her family. They comfortably interact within the family group and move around freely and confidently, engaging in conversation and play. They laugh and giggle as they play

hide and seek games with older children, and openly show affection to younger ones. They confidently express their needs and wishes, for example, when they are hungry and when choosing activities and roles within imaginary games.

Children access a wide range of play materials that are appropriate to their needs and interests. They make independent choices in their play and confidently move around their environment. They have opportunities to relax after a busy day at school and to select favourite toys and activities. They concentrate well as they complete tasks in activity books, meticulously completing dot to dot pictures and mazes, engaging in these purposefully and with evident enjoyment.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel valued and respected as individuals. They make their own decisions regarding their play activities, which promotes their independence and self-esteem. Children learn about the local community through their daily walks to school and begin to learn about the wider world as they access a range of books and play resources that reflect positive images of differences. The childminder has a positive attitude to caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities and has appropriate systems in place to ensure that they can be fully included in family life.

Children behave well. The childminder encourages good behaviour as she has clear boundaries in place which she kindly, but firmly, reinforces. Children play together nicely, readily taking turns and sharing equipment, the childminder supports this well through good levels of supervision and intervention where necessary. She creates a relaxed and friendly atmosphere where children happily play. The childminder gathers appropriate information from parents to ensure she is able to meet children's individual needs. She is beginning to develop some written information to inform parents of her practices, business arrangements and activities provided. She exchanges information with them on a daily basis to promote continuity of care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has attended the introduction to childminding practice course and has all the mandatory records in place to help to promote children's safety and welfare. However, she has not yet attended required first aid training which could compromise this. Children benefit from the childminder's good organisation of her space. They mainly play in two adjoining rooms, freely moving between them. This enables older children to play with toys that may pose a danger to younger ones and provides opportunities for children to engage in quieter activities should they choose. Children sit comfortably to have their meals in the dining area of the kitchen. Resources are well organised to allow children to independently select their toys and play materials and they are happy and relaxed in their environment. Overall children's needs are met.

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

Not applicable.

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

Since registration 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):

- obtain written parental permission to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment
- practise the emergency escape plan
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children.

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)