



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY338393
Inspection date	20 November 2006
Inspector	Margaret Bryant
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 July 2006. She is registered to work at another childminder's home which is in Aldbrough, a small village in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Childminding takes place mainly in a detached extension in the grounds of the main childminder's home. The ground floor of the home is also used and there is an enclosed outdoor area.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time. When working with another childminder the maximum number of children allowed is 11. Currently there are 28 children on roll, 26 of whom are under eight years. The childminder takes children on local walks around the village and to and from school. The childminder's home in which she works has family pets, including a dog, goldfish, a rabbit and fish outdoors in the pond.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She has a childcare qualification, the BTEC National Diploma in Childcare.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises in which children are cared for are not the childminder's own, however, she keeps the areas clean where children play. She also helps safeguard children's health through keeping all toys and resources clean for children's daily use. Children's health and well-being is satisfactorily promoted; as the childminder helps children begin to learn the importance of good hygiene measures, such as washing their hands. Older children independently do this after they visit the toilet. They also all happily wash their hands as part of their daily routine, before snack time and before meals. The childminder is aware of children's individual dietary requirements as well as any individual medical needs they may have and these are all recorded. The childminder is careful she respects parents' wishes with regard to these. This ensures children's health and well-being is cared for. Parents are kept well informed about the policies on sickness, illness and medication through the information pack they receive. The childminder holds a relevant first aid certificate and says this helps her feel confident if immediate medical attention is needed. She knows she could deal with this in a capable way. Toilet training is carried out when parents feel their children are ready and the childminder encourages children with this in a gentle way and gives them lots of praise. She ensures children are not hurried as they learn in their own time. Nappies are changed within the toilet area which helps children have privacy.

Children have a healthy snack of fruit, which they enjoy, and begin to know about healthy eating and the importance of this. At lunchtimes a hot meal is served to children and this is often healthy. The childminder helps promote healthy eating through discussions with children and helps children to know about which foods are good for them. They help themselves to drinking water and at snack times enjoy fruit juice of different flavours. Young children and babies have routines which the childminder follows in line with their requests and any children who have special dietary requirements are catered for. All children sit together to have their meals and snacks and young children in highchairs are encouraged to feed themselves and become independent. All children are encouraged with manners and the childminder provides a good role model as she is polite when speaking to them.

The childminder is aware of children's need for rest and sleep and is caring in her approach which helps children feel settled. Babies and young children use their pushchairs for rest, however, there is no comfortable furniture readily available for older children who wish to rest. Children enjoy daily walks and benefit from the exercise they get. Outdoors there is plenty of equipment including swings and climbing frames for them to enjoy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises in which children are cared for are satisfactory in helping keep children safe. There are good measures for the arrival of persons at the premises with a secure gate with entry by invitation only, this helps keep children safe. Parents are informed about the procedure for collection if they cannot collect their children themselves. A password system operates in

agreement with them and this also ensures children's utmost safety. All toys and resources in use by children are safe and checked daily with use, however, the small setttee is ripped in part with foam exposed. The flooring in the main playroom is of a non-slip variety and this helps protect children from harm. Supervision of children by the childminder is good. There is an outdoor area where children play which is separate from the main childminder's garden. This outdoor area, however, is not without possible hazards, as there is a pond with small fence around which children sometimes climb. The main childminder, however, does carry out ongoing checks of all equipment out here for children's use and any identified problems are dealt with as soon as possible. Underneath the climbing frame is a thick, barked surface and this helps absorb some of the impact if children should fall.

Older children know about keeping safe when on outings. They say they use their eyes and ears when near roads, hold hands and walk nicely which they know helps keep them safe. Young children are appropriately protected when on outings through having harnesses fitted to their pushchairs. Children know where the fire alarm is as they point to this and know the sound it makes. When the alarm sounds they know they must get out quickly, line up in 'two's' and go out into the garden. This practise helps them know how to keep safe in case of a real emergency.

As a co-childminder she does not assume full responsibility for the reporting of any concerns. However, she has a sufficient understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures which ensures children's well-being is appropriately safeguarded. The main childminder provides parents with a copy of her child protection policy. This helps them know the childminder's role in this and her responsibilities for safeguarding children from harm at all times when in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

All children are very happy in the care of a childminder who is kind, caring and helps them learn through a broad range of planned and spontaneous activities she helps provide. All children get along well together and the youngest follow the lead of the older ones, for example, when they indulge in pretence. They play with their dolls and busy themselves taking them on pretend walks and dress and undress them as they put them in their prams to sleep. The childminder engages all children's interest as she tells them stories with great enthusiasm. Children listen attentively as she speaks quietly and loudly to emphasise what is happening in the story. She encourages them to join in as she asks them questions as she reads. They confidently answer and eagerly await what comes next. They also help themselves to books and sit with these on their child-sized setttee and read to each other. Children know to handle books with care, even the youngest of children.

The childminder encourages children to talk about the pictures they make as they enjoy the glue and collage materials they use. They receive praise for their efforts and are proud of their finished pictures which they carefully carry to the area where they place them to dry. Young children enjoy games of peek-a-boo and really laugh as the childminder joins in with this. The walls of the playroom have displays of nursery rhymes and scenes of Winter and children's work is included in these. Children are proud as their efforts are displayed for all to see. These displays also help the premises be bright and welcoming and seeing their work on display helps children

feel they belong. Children are helped to use their skills through open-ended questions the childminder asks. For example, she asks them which animals they see on their walks and they answer excitedly as they remember the cows and the rabbits. The childminder helps children know about these animals and the care they need. This helps increase their awareness of other living things.

Children's achievements are recorded in their individual files and these are shared with parents. These help show them their children are helped to make progress in different areas of learning including: recognition of number; colours; letters and shapes. Children learn as they play and through everyday conversation she reinforces their learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder shows consideration for all children as she treats them with equal concern and tends to their individual needs. This ensures they all feel very welcome and included. Parents receive information about policies in place from the main childminder, these include equal opportunities, special needs and the policy on the management of behaviour. These help parents know the setting promotes anti-discriminatory good practice and appropriate care is given to their children. There are some resources which include positive images of race and disability including books, dolls and puzzles. Children also learn about other countries, for example, they sample the different foods, learn about the colours of other countries national flags, and see the different clothes other people wear through images in books. They also learn about the weather and animals, for example, through their current topic on Winter, children learn about the North Pole and polar bears.

Children are helped to have respect for each other, to be kind and nice to each other and to share their toys. They also help take care of their toys and learn to tidy away which ensures there is not too many items on the floor at one time. The childminder gives children lots of praise and this helps them feel good about themselves and helps raise their self-esteem. She also has a close relationship with parents, with whom she works well, and carries out their wishes in relation to the care of their children. She gives parents daily feedback about their child's time with her. An informative pack is given to parents and this includes a complaints procedure with the address and telephone number of Ofsted. This helps parents know any concerns they have, which the main childminder cannot resolve, will be looked into.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in premises which are comfortable and reasonably well organised within the available space. Children have choice from a good range of resources, all of which are at their height and, therefore, they can easily access. The childminder is conscientious in her work with the children and shows a commitment to attending training to develop her knowledge and ultimately benefit children's learning. She is already booked on courses for next year. The policies and procedures in place work well in practice though these are not compiled by her as

a co-childminder. She is patient and a good role model for children, this helps them feel calm and relaxed in her care.

Her certificate of registration as a childminder is on display and this reassures parents of her suitability to care for their children, as well as the conditions by which she operates. All records are in place as required by regulation, however, the main contract with parents is that of the main childminder. Some contracts and written agreements in place refer to her as a carer of their children, however, others do not. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

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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 children are closely supervised at all times when outdoors playing and that any damaged furniture they use does not pose a risk to their health and well being
- provide suitable furniture or equipment for older children to have rest in comfort and ensure all is safe for their use
- ensure there are written agreements in place with parents as to the care of their 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