



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	505168
Inspection date	03 October 2006
Inspector	Kathryn Margaret Clayton
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 first registered in 1992. She is registered to look after six children under the age of eight years and currently four children attend on a part time basis throughout the week, although none were present at inspection. The childminder also cares for her grandchildren. She lives with her husband on a busy main road in a residential area, close to the outskirts of Grimsby. Minded children have access to the dining room, the kitchen and toilet facilities. The family keep a number of pets: two dogs, a cat, seven birds, a rabbit and two guinea pigs. There is a safely enclosed garden. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder understands how to ensure children can rest and sleep comfortably according to their individual needs. There is a travel cot and large pram where babies can sleep quietly during the day. The childminder makes sure that children who attend have a suitable level of activity. She takes a baby swimming every week, and all children play outdoors with a suitable range of equipment, such as bikes, scooters, pushchairs, skipping ropes and a golf set. She ensures children enjoy regular walks to the local park and woods. The childminder helps children to remain healthy because she provides individual hand towels to reduce the risk of cross-infection and some children use their own toothbrushes.

Children are encouraged by the childminder to learn about personal hygiene, for example, washing their hands before meals, after going to the toilet and playing outdoors. Most toys are clean to an adequate standard except for baby toys and outdoor toys. Through discussion the childminder demonstrates a suitable understanding of how to help children learn about the benefits of healthy eating. She provides healthy and nutritious home cooked meals, for example, roast dinners with fresh vegetables, shepherd's pie, fruit and yoghurts. The childminder maintains a current understanding of first aid and has completed an appropriate course. There are procedures in place regarding the administration of medication. Full details are recorded and parents sign to acknowledge the record. However, the childminder does not obtain written permission from parents to administer medication, which is a risk to children and a breach of regulations.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a child-friendly home where they can choose from a wide selection of toys around the play area. The childminder encourages children to independently select games from a large storage cupboard in the kitchen. She has taken steps to ensure that the areas used by children are safe. For example, there is a secure lock on the exit door, a stair gate and fireguard in place, and children are protected from low glass as it is covered with safety film.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates a suitable understanding of how to keep children safe when out walking and teaching them about safety on the roads. Children are also involved in practising the evacuation of the premises. Children are safeguarded because the childminder has some understanding of her responsibilities with regard to child protection and who to contact should she have any concerns. However, she does not have a copy of the Government booklet 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused'.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates, through discussion and photographs, the importance of involving children in interesting activities that support their development and learning. For example, she

encourages babies to share books with her and play with stimulating toys, such as musical instruments. She feels it is important for babies to have a stable routine that fits in with their individual needs. As many children have attended for a long period of time she feels they are completely settled, at ease in her care and welcomed as part of the family.

The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of the need to provide children with appropriate creative experiences, such as baking and making craft items. The childminder makes the best use of incidental experiences to enhance children's enjoyment, for example, exploring the snow on a winter's day. She provides suitable opportunities for children to take part in trips during the school holidays. These include visits to the beach or bowling centre.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the children who attend and their individual personalities. She knows them well and treats them all with equal concern. The childminder understands how to promote acceptable behaviour by being a good role model. She talks to older children about their behaviour and praises children when they achieve something, for example, when they are successful in gaining swimming awards. There are some books and puzzles available to children that promote the positive image of diversity, however, the provision is limited.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of how to support children who have additional needs. She understands the importance of building a close partnership with parents and does this in a number of ways, for example, by involving all parents in events, such as celebrating birthdays. She makes sure she talks to parents at the end of each day so they are suitably informed about what their child has been doing. The complaints policy is not up-to-date and there is no system to investigate, record and report on complaints made by parents that relate to the National Standards.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is experienced and has made a commitment to improving her practice by attending additional training. This includes training in the 'Birth to three matters' framework, child protection, family literacy and business matters. Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates a very caring attitude towards children. She works within the conditions of her registration at all times and maintains the correct adult to child ratios. Children enjoy adequate freedom of movement in the kitchen diner and sitting room.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of the need to support children appropriately and ensure they have a good balance of interaction and the chance to play independently. Documentation on the whole is well organised, readily available and confidentially maintained. The exception to this is the documentation relating to the administration of medication: this is not organised effectively to fully support the children's

welfare and safety. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection recommendations and actions were raised relating to the safety of children and record keeping. Since the last inspection children's safety has been improved as the ironing board has been removed from the kitchen. Record keeping has improved: the childminder has obtained written consent from parents to transport children in a vehicle and now records details of everyone living on the premises.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- ensure all outdoor toys and baby toys are clean
- obtain prior written parental permission before giving children medication
- obtain a copy of the Government booklet 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused'
- update the complaints policy and 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