



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY103433
Inspection date	24 January 2006
Inspector	Melanie Arnold

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 good. 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 2001. She lives with her adult daughter and granddaughter aged five years in Bassingham, Lincolnshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, with sleep facilities on the first floor. There is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. The family have a dog and two guinea pigs.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding one child under five on a part time basis, two children under eight and five children aged over eight, for before and after-school sessions.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit and enjoy daily opportunities to access fresh air as they walk to and from school and also go for walks around the village promoting their well-being. They enjoy playing outside in the childminder's garden where they access a good range of resources to help develop their physical skills well. For example, playing on a trampoline, slide and a climbing frame. Younger children's physical skills are beginning to develop as they attend toddler sessions at an indoor activity area. Children's individual needs are well catered for because the childminder is aware of their individual sleep routines and ensures they are able to sleep peacefully without disturbance.

Children are cared for in a clean home, where their health is effectively promoted because good health and hygiene routines are implemented. For example, children wash their hands

appropriately, surfaces and changing mats are cleaned with anti-bacterial wipes and the childminder has a clear policy regarding the exclusion of children when they are ill. This helps to maintain children's health and prevent the spread of any infection. Younger children are well nourished because the childminder promotes healthy eating. They benefit from freshly prepared meals and enjoy healthy options, like fruit at snack times, ensuring their well-being is maintained. The range of snacks provided for older children is currently not as healthy, due to older children's preferences. Children have free access to their drinks at all times promoting their independence. They are also provided with regular drinks throughout the day, meeting their needs well.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure environment, where space is used effectively to meet their needs. They are safe and well protected within the childminder's care due to her identifying potential hazards and taking positive steps to limit these risks. Children's understanding of safety issues is promoted well because the childminder re-enforces their understanding of road safety issues when walking to and from school and they take part in regular fire practices, which helps them to learn what to do in an emergency. Children enjoy playing with an appropriate range of toys and resources, which are regularly checked to ensure their safety. Their individual needs are well catered for because they have access to a good range of equipment. Children's welfare is maintained at all times because the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and she is aware of the procedure to follow should she have child protection concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder where they access a suitable range of resources to meet their individual needs and are provided with appropriate opportunities to learn through play. For example, children's imagination is promoted well as they enjoy playing with the dolls, feeding and putting them to bed. They also enjoy attending toddler groups where they mix and socialise with other children their age. Children respond well to the childminder as she engages in play with them. They are settled and confident in her care because she listens and values what they are saying. Children are learning good manners during play, as the childminder encourages the use of please and thank you. The childminder is aware of, but does not yet have or use, the 'Birth to three matters' framework when planning care and learning for children under three years. Therefore, although the provision is generally good for young children, their experiences and learning are not always fully developed.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are effectively met because the childminder gets to know each child well. Children are valued and respected as individuals and the childminder is aware of the information to gather concerning a child's special needs to ensure appropriate care could be provided for them. However, children's understanding of the wider world is not fully promoted because they have limited access to an appropriate range of resources and activities. Children's self-esteem is promoted through the good use of praise and encouragement, with appropriate strategies in place to deal with any unwanted behaviour in line with the child's age and level of understanding. Children benefit from a good partnership with parents. The childminder provides parents with good information on the service she provides through an informative portfolio. She also keeps parents informed of their child's daily activities through verbal feedback.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are relaxed and confident in the childminder's care as her friendly nature helps to create a welcoming environment. Their needs are met well due to the effective use of space, with a suitable range of resources stored appropriately, providing children with easy access to them. The childminder is committed to providing children with a good standard of care because she has completed all required training courses. Children's welfare and care are promoted well because records are completed with the required information. They are also stored confidentially to ensure children's welfare is maintained. Children benefit because the childminder has formed a good partnership with parents, which enables her to effectively cater for children's individual needs. Overall, the provision meets the

needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure positive steps are taken to promote children's safety within the setting; to obtain written permission from parents to transport children in a car and to seek emergency medical help or advice; to maintain a record of any medication given to children; to complete a first aid course; and to ensure resources are available reflecting positive images of diversity.

The childminder has taken positive steps to ensure the setting is safe and all required permissions are now in place. She is aware of the procedure to record appropriate information when administering any medicines and she has completed a first aid course. This helps to promote children's safety within the setting. Although some resources are now available to children reflecting positive images of diversity, these could still be further expanded to fully promote children's understanding of the wider world.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

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):

- improve outcomes for children under three by using an approach in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- further develop the range of resources and activities provided to effectively promote children's understanding of the wider world.

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