

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	257472
<b>Inspection date</b>	04 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Melanie Arnold

<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 2001. She lives with her husband, who is registered as a childminding assistant and their three children aged 13, 12 and six in Lincoln. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. The childminder's husband is registered as her assistant and he occasionally collects children from school. The childminder currently has seven children under eight years on roll who attend for various sessions each week. Additional children aged over eight years are also cared for. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children, she also takes children on outings to the park and to indoor activity areas. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a dog, two cats, two guinea pigs and two gerbils.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is adequately maintained through the appropriate health and hygiene routines the childminder encourages and implements around the home. For example, children's hands are wiped to ensure they are clean before they eat meals, antibacterial cleaning products are used within the kitchen to maintain a clean environment and the toilet is cleaned on a regular basis. Children's health and safety is protected through the childminder maintaining a current first aid certificate, however, permission to obtain emergency medical advice or treatment has yet to be completed for all children to fully ensure their well-being is effectively maintained. The risk of cross-infection is minimised because the childminder does not provide care for children when they are ill. Children's physical skills are developing generally well as they enjoy regular trips to toddler groups and indoor activity areas. Walking to and from school provides children with fresh air and exercise, helping to promote their well-being.

Children's dietary requirements, likes and dislikes are met through their parents providing meals for them. However, although the childminder offers assistance and chats to children during meal times, their attention is often focused on the television. This results in children's social skills not being effectively promoted at this time. A healthy range of snacks are provided by the childminder to help promote children's well-being. Children enjoy a wide range of snacks, where they are introduced to a varied diet through the childminder using different weekly food themes. For example, children try different types of bread during the 'bread week', they have different fruits and vegetables during the 'vegetable and fruit week' and they have cheese, croissants and French Sticks during the 'French week'. Regular drinks are made available to children to ensure their thirst requirements are met.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure environment, where adequate space is provided to meet their needs. They freely access a wide range of toys and resources, which are stored at child height enabling them to initiate their own play. Appropriate equipment is in place, but is not always used effectively to ensure children's individual needs are fully met. Equipment and resources are regularly checked to ensure they remain safe for children to use.

Children's safety is protected because the childminder has taken relevant steps to minimise potential hazards around the home. For example, medication is kept in a locked cabinet, a stair gate is used to prevent children accessing the stairs and children only have access to the family dog when they are fully supervised. However, their well-being is potentially compromised because the childminder has not obtained permission to transport all children in a motor vehicle. Children's welfare is appropriately safeguarded because the childminder has a generally good knowledge of child protection procedures. Up to date information concerning child protection is accessible to the childminder to ensure she can make a referral without delay should the need arise. Therefore, protecting children from harm.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content. They freely access a wide range of toys and resources which meet their differing developmental needs. Children display their good use of imagination as they independently play with the dolls. They pretend to feed the babies and themselves when using the baby resources and play food. As children are engaged happily in this play activity, the childminder skilfully observes them and lets them continue without her involvement. This allows the children to develop their play in a manner which suits them. At other times the childminder does get involved with children's play to help further develop their skills. For example, when a child builds a tower out of bricks, the childminder encourages her to count how many she has used. The child easily counts up to four. The childminder then helps the child to count all of the bricks up to seven. This helps to develop children's understanding of number.

Younger children's development is promoted well through hands on exploration. For example, the use of a treasure basket enables children to explore different textures. Assessment and observations systems are in the process of being developed for all children under five to help ensure they are continually challenged to make progress in all areas. Children participate in a good range of activities, ensuring their all round development is promoted. For example, children have fun participating in art and craft activities, they enjoy messy play activities like corn flour or jelly, they benefit from attending toddler groups and they have fun with play dough.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are met because the childminder knows each child well. All children are treated equally and children with learning difficulties or disabilities receive appropriate care to meet their specific requirements through the childminder working closely with parents. Children respond well to praise and encouragement, which encourages their good behaviour and develops their self-esteem. Their welfare and development is promoted because the childminder is aware of appropriate strategies to use to manage any unwanted behaviour.

The childminder works well with parents and has developed positive relationships with them. Parents have access to relevant information in the form of a portfolio. However, the registration certificate is not clearly displayed and although complaints information has been shared with parents, it is not in the correct format, to ensure children's care is not compromised. Parents learn about what their children do each day through written records and daily verbal communication.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. Adequate space is available to children enabling them to sleep, eat and play. An accessible environment is created, as toys and resources are stored at child height. Children's safety is ensured because the childminder or her assistant remain in sole charge of the children at all times. Children benefit from a generally good standard of care to meet their needs because the childminder continually updates her knowledge and skills through attending training courses.

Appropriate written policies and procedures are in place, which support the childminder's practices, ensuring children's well-being is maintained. All records and documentation are in place. However, the registration system lacks some detail and several permission forms, including those relating to the assistant being left in sole charge of children, transporting children in a motor vehicle and obtaining emergency medical treatment have yet to be completed for all children. This will then ensure the welfare of children is not compromised. Children's records are stored with regard to maintaining confidentiality. Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to record the time of any previous dose of medication. This information is now recorded in the medication book to fully ensure children's health and safety is protected.

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

Since the 1 April 2004 there has been one complaint made to Ofsted that required the childminder to take action to meet the National Standards.

The complaint related to National Standard 1: Suitable person, National Standard 2: Organisation, National Standard 6: Safety, National Standard 7: Health and National Standard 11: Behaviour. Ofsted conducted an unannounced visit to the provision on 11 April 2006 to consider these concerns. As a result of the investigation the provider was given the following actions: ensure all relevant forms are completed and submitted for the assistant, ensure children cannot access pet food and ensure written parental consents are in place for each child especially regarding systems for picking up children from school. A satisfactory response to the actions was received on 02 June 2006. The registered person continues to be qualified for registration.

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 the registration certificate is clearly displayed and the complaints record contains all of the required information
- ensure permission is obtained to seek emergency medical treatment/advice, to transport children in a motor vehicle and to leave children in the sole charge of an assistant for a maximum period of one hour
- update the register to clearly show when the assistant has been caring for the 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)