

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY103096

Inspection date 19 April 2007

Inspector Janice Broddle

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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 and two school-age children on the outskirts of Grantham, Lincolnshire. All areas of the property are used for childminding, although this mainly takes place on the ground floor in the play room. Bathroom and sleeping facilities are on the first floor. There is a rear garden for outdoor play. The family do not keep any pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child aged under five all day. The childminder lives within walking distance of local school and does not have use of a vehicle. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and warm environment. They are protected from the risk of spreading infection through the childminder's good hygiene practices, for example, children

have their own flannels for washing after meals and wet wipes are on hand for children to use as required. Children are beginning to learn about good basic hygiene through daily routines such as washing their hands after using the toilet and before meals and being able to access tissues to wipe their noses. There are effective systems in place to deal with accidents and emergencies.

Children have their dietary needs met because the childminder works well with parents. She agrees arrangements for meals with them prior to admission and provides food in line with their wishes, ensuring that individual dietary requirements are met. She provides meals on request, and ensures that these are balanced and nutritious and provides a healthy range of snacks.

Daily walks in the local community, along with regular access to the wide range of garden equipment including balls, bicycles and slides, provide good opportunities for fresh air and physical exercise. Children further develop their physical skills and co-ordination through regular visits to the local park and indoor soft play area where they run, climb and balance on the large equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children have access to a wide range of play equipment that is developmentally appropriate and of good quality. Toys are clean and safe, the childminder monitors this as she engages with children in their play and has appropriate systems in place to check them for possible risk. Children are kept safe when outside of the home environment as the childminder uses appropriate safety equipment, such as push-chair harnesses or wrist straps and ensures older children remain close at all times.

Children are cared for in a safe and well-maintained indoor environment. The childminder has identified and minimised potential hazards, for example, by fixing doorstoppers on doors to prevent trapped fingers and storing toys within easy reach. This enables children to freely and safely move around and independently select their play materials. There are clear procedures in place in the event of an emergency and parents are aware of these. However, her use of the garden exposes children to possible risks outdoors. Children freely access the rear garden where they have unrestricted access to low level glass. Additionally, the garden is not securely enclosed which means that children could get out of this area unsupervised.

Children are protected from harm because the childminder understands her responsibilities with regard to child protection. She is aware of current government guidance which is kept readily to hand for reference if needed. She is clear who she must share any concerns with.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's home. They have good relationships with her due to her calm and gentle manner and she creates a warm and friendly atmosphere which encourages their personal confidence. Children gain in independence as they freely move around and explore their environment, developing their self-esteem as they make choices from familiar toys they enjoy. The childminder has a good understanding of children's individual needs and works effectively with parents to plan daily routines around these. This ensures that children

are cared for in line with routines at home. Daily plans are flexible and adapted to meet the changing needs of children.

The childminder is beginning to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework. She has devised some basic planning of activities, and children enjoy a broad and varied range where they learn through play. She makes good use of natural resources, such as water, for children to explore and investigate. They particularly enjoy sticking activities, and practise their hand-eye co-ordination as they spread the glue on the paper and arrange their chosen pictures. Children's language skills are developing well. A wide selection of easily accessible, good quality books supports this and encourages their enjoyment of books. Children access these frequently and enjoy sharing them with the childminder and listening to stories. Children freely access the garden where a wide range of toys and equipment provide opportunities for them to practise their physical abilities. Visits to local facilities such as the library and toddler groups, along with regular meetings with other minded children support their developing social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are learning about their local community through walks around their local environment along with regular visits to the parks, shops and the local school. The childminder has a range of books and play materials that help to promote children's awareness of diversity and understanding of others' differences. She works effectively with parents to ensure that she is aware of children's individual needs and routines in order that she can provide consistent care and she has good systems in place to ensure that children with special needs are fully included in her provision.

Children begin to learn right from wrong through the childminder's calm and consistent reinforcement of clear boundaries. Through her good levels of support and patient, appropriate explanations, young children begin to learn to share and take turns. The childminder exchanges ongoing information with parents and has a range of written information that informs them of her practices and keeps them informed about children's daily care, activities and developmental progress. Her good relationship with parents ensures consistency and continuity of care for the children who consequently feel secure and happy in her care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has all required records and documentation in place. She has established clear agreements with parents regarding the arrangements for children's daily needs and ongoing effective communication systems help to promote continuity of care.

Children are relaxed and content in their environment. The childminder organises daily activities around children's individual routines, ensuring that they participate in livelier activities when they are most active and quieter ones as they begin to tire. They begin to develop their independence as they can freely access a good selection of toys and play equipment from the toy chest and storage crates stored within children's easy reach in the play room. However, current safety measures are not fully comprehensive in ensuring that children are safe and secure in the garden, exposing them to possible hazards from low-level glass and lack of security which means that overall children's needs are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provider agreed to two recommendations. She agreed to obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. This is now in place which ensures she is able to seek appropriate support and advice in the event of an accident or emergency. She also agreed to develop systems to ensure that the regulation regarding the investigating of complaints and maintenance of a complaints log is fully complied with. A complaints procedure is now in place along with a record of complaints which parents can see on request.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, Ofsted has received one complaint which raised concerns about the safety of a child on an outing. Ofsted conducted an unannounced visit to the provision on 30/10/2006 to consider these concerns in relation to National Standards 2: Organisation and 6: Safety. As a result of the visit the provider was given an action to take positive steps to promote children's safety on outings. A satisfactory response to this was received on 22/12/2006 and the childminder continues to be qualified for registration.

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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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that hazards to children on the premises are minimised with reference to the security of the rear garden and to low level glass in the rear garden.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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