

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY343632
Inspection date 25 May 2007
Inspector Sandra Hornsby

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 2006. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and 10 in Holbeach, Lincolnshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminders house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently caring for two children on a part-time basis.

The family have a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment. They benefit from a high level of cleanliness and hygiene which contributes to limiting cross-infection. A verbal agreement between the childminder and parents about the care and attendance of sick children further protects children from infections and bugs. Good daily routines help children understand the

importance of hand washing and personal hygiene. Children carry out these tasks regularly and talk about why they are doing it. Children use the toilet independently, with support if they need it. This practice promotes the children's dignity, privacy, and self-care skills.

The childminder has relevant first aid training and implements procedures, for example, recording of accidents and medication appropriately to maintain good health and consistency of care. The childminder is well informed and has a good understanding about children's individual health requirements. She has in place instructions and permissions to seek emergency medical treatment, which means children will receive immediate and appropriate care, which safeguards and protects children's health.

Although the childminder does not provide main meals, she is happy to offer children simple and healthy snacks. The childminder has knowledge about food hygiene and is able to store food in the appropriate manner to keep it fresh and safe. The childminder talks to the children about what they are eating which helps them to begin to understand about what is good for them, and they always have access to fresh drinking water.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a suitable range of toys and equipment. They move between two main play areas freely. Low level storage of toys and accessible activities means that children make good use of the space available. The childminder carries out regular checks to make sure toys are clean, safe and age appropriate.

The childminder has fire safety precautions in place, which includes smoke detectors and a fire blanket. Hazards around the home have been identified and the childminder has taken precautions to prevent accidents. For example, children using the trampoline are protected by a secure net. On outings the childminder helps children understand about road safety, and they learn about holding hands and pedestrian crossings.

The childminder has a basic understanding of child protection issues. This means she is alert to some signs and symptoms that cause concern, but she lacks accessibility of Local Safeguarding procedures and contact numbers. This presents a risk of children and families not receiving appropriate and immediate care from the correct agencies.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have immediate access to a selection of interesting and stimulating toys and equipment. They are encouraged and supported to make their own decisions, explore and make choices about what they wish to play with. Children become engrossed in their play, concentrating on their self chosen tasks, sometimes involving others and sometimes playing alone. Playing with other children helps them to develop social skills, learn about sharing and understand turn taking. The childminder asks questions, reinforces what children already know and encourages children to use their imagination as they move about with confidence and self-assurance. Children are very settled in the childminder's care, and there is obvious warmth between the children and childminder as they chat happily and freely and enjoy each others company.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a good understanding about the children in her care, and treats them as individuals. She ensures their individual needs are identified and met and their differences respected. Written information about the children ensures they receive the correct care. However, children have less opportunity to learn, and to acknowledge and accept differences, as activities, play materials and resources do not reflect positive images or enlighten children's understanding about diversity.

The childminder has understanding about the needs of children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She understands about forming close links with parents and outside agencies to ensure children's needs are planned for and met effectively.

Children interact with the childminder well, listening to her requests. The childminder explains to the children why some behaviour is not acceptable, for example aiming toy missiles at people, which helps children understand the consequences of their actions. The childminder praises the children naturally and manages behaviour in a calm and positive way. She has suitable and verbally agreed strategies with parents to support managing a wide range of behaviour.

Children benefit from the relationship between the parents and childminder. Written information about the children is provided by parents, and the childminder has verbal agreements in place, for example, regarding the attendance of sick children and going on outings. Information about the children is exchanged regularly between parents and childminder which helps children receive continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder offers a safe environment that is organised to allow children free access to toys and equipment, and where they build security and confidence. The childminder is keen to develop her practice and has participated in a variety of childcare related courses which will help protect the welfare of the children she is caring for.

The childminder maintains up-to-date information about the children, and has verbal agreements in place which ensures children receive appropriate care. All regulatory documents are in place which supports the safe and effective management of her service.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection 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):

- develop knowledge and understanding about child protection issues and the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures
- ensure that all children have access to an appropriate range of resources which promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice

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