

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY346937
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Janice Broddle
<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 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 2006. She lives with her husband and seven-year-old daughter in Grantham, Lincolnshire. She sometimes works with an assistant. All areas of the property are used for childminding, although this mainly takes place in the front lounge, middle sitting room and the kitchen. Bathroom and sleeping facilities are on the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family do not keep any pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding five children aged under five years and three children aged over five years. All children attend on a part-time basis. When working with an assistant, she is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She walks to local schools to take and collect children and has a vehicle available to take them on outings. She attends the local parent and toddler groups and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's health and well-being is well promoted through the childminder's thorough cleaning and hygiene routines. A range of clear written policies support this, for example, regarding children who are unwell, administration of medication and use of the sand pit. This is possibly compromised to some extent however as required medication records do not all contain the required level of detail. Children are developing good personal hygiene awareness, for example, they learn why they do not wear outdoor footwear indoors and to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. The childminder's comprehensive hygiene arrangements including nappy changing procedures and use of individual linen for each child also helps to minimise the risk of spread of infection. Comprehensive arrangements are in place to ensure children are well cared for in the event of an accident or emergency.

Children develop a positive attitude to exercise through daily opportunities for physical activity. They walk to school each day and regularly access the garden where they run, climb, bounce and balance using a wide variety of equipment including the trampoline, swings and see-saw. They also enjoy regular trips to local parks where they explore a different variety of larger equipment. In poorer weather, children visit soft play areas where the range of equipment provides further physical challenges.

Children enjoy healthy and nutritious meals and snacks as the childminder actively promotes healthy eating. They enjoy healthy options such as fresh fruit and vegetables as part of each meal and the childminder gently encourages children to taste foods they are unfamiliar with. She works closely with parents to ensure that meals are adapted to meet the swiftly changing needs of babies.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a warm, child-centred and very well maintained environment. They use high quality toys and equipment that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. The childminder ensures that she checks these regularly in order to ensure that she maintains them in good, clean condition so that they do not pose a risk to children and they are stored at low level so that children can safely and easily access those they choose.

The childminder has an excellent awareness of safety issues. She is extremely vigilant in her supervision of the children and makes effective use of appropriate safety equipment such as stair gates and harnesses. She has a comprehensive risk assessment in place for all areas within the home which identifies and minimises potential hazards, therefore minimising the risk of accidental injury. The childminder has excellent systems in place to ensure that she promotes children's safety at all times. For example, she has appropriate insurances in place and has a wide range of clear and comprehensive procedures in place to ensure that children are well cared for in the event of accidents or emergencies, such as local or national events and fire within the home. Her clear procedures for outings contribute to children's safety when outside of the home environment.

Children learn how to keep themselves safe from possible danger because the childminder gives this high priority. She has actively sought age-appropriate information and children watch

features relating to, for example, stranger danger and the possible dangers of fire, traffic and water. They then discuss these at length, clarifying appropriate ways to keep themselves safe. Children are very well protected as the childminder has a comprehensive understanding of her responsibilities regarding child protection. She has a clear and comprehensive written procedure, with appropriate contact numbers readily to hand. Parents receive copies of the procedure to ensure that they are clear of the childminder's responsibilities to safeguard children's welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's home because she establishes warm and friendly relationships with them. She is calm and confident which helps babies to settle contentedly for their feeds and sleeps and they happily respond to her ongoing communication; smiling and vocalising in response. Pre-school children confidently enter the home and quickly settle to play, they are beginning to develop their independence and self-esteem as they make choices from familiar toys they enjoy. The childminder supports this further through her high levels of attention and ongoing gentle praise and encouragement.

Children enjoy a broad and varied range of experiences where they learn through play. They freely access a wide range of age-appropriate toys to promote all areas of their development and the range of adult-led activities planned by the childminder enhances this. Children explore different cultures through craft activities, baking and planting seeds. They enjoy regular outings to parks, farms and adventure play grounds which introduces them to different environments to explore along with a wide variety of physical challenges. For younger children, regular visits to local groups such as the messy play group and childminding support group introduces them to large group play and supports their developing social skills.

The childminder has a good understanding of children's individual needs. She plans daily activities around these which ensures that children eat and rest in line with routines at home. Outings and livelier activities take place at times when children will gain maximum benefit from them. The childminder has some basic planning in place and is making good use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to observe young children's progress in order to identify the next steps in their development.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected; there are facilities for them to store their personal possessions to help promote their self-worth and the childminder exchanges detailed information with parents so that she is aware of children's individual needs and routines. She has appropriate systems in place to ensure that children with learning difficulties or disabilities can be fully included in her provision. Children learn about the local community through their involvement with local groups and by accessing nearby facilities such as parks and schools. They are learning about the wider world through the provision of a wide and varied range of toys and equipment that promote positive images of differences. The childminder builds on this through discussion and by planning activities based on different countries, for example, children enjoy making pizzas, planting pumpkin seeds and making flags to learn about American culture.

Children's behaviour is very good. The childminder has established clear boundaries within the home and children quickly learn these through her gentle but consistent reminders. Children

receive high levels of attention and the childminder's ongoing use of praise and reward, to reinforce positive behaviour, contributes towards developing children's self-esteem.

The childminder shares a comprehensive range of written information with parents, keeping them very well informed about her practices. She exchanges detailed ongoing information to ensure all children are cared for within their usual routines and maintains a written record of children's developmental progress, and also for younger children, daily routines. Children benefit from this positive working relationship, which promotes consistency and continuity of care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder evidences great zeal and enthusiasm to developing her service. She has attended required training and evidences a strong commitment to improving her practice through attendance at further courses to develop her knowledge and understanding of good child care, including food & nutrition, behaviour management, fire awareness and play. She organises space and resources well and children have use of several rooms, which enables those who are tired to rest or sleep as required, whilst others continue to engage in active play. Children are relaxed and happy in the childminder's care and confidently explore their toys and play materials and express their needs and wishes. They engage in a wide range of physical activities due to the childminder's good use of the garden and of local facilities. The childminder organises daily routines well to ensure that she cares for children in line with their individual needs and routines. She has a comprehensive range of policies and procedures, which she shares with all parents, promoting consistency and continuity of care. All legally required documentation, which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being, is in place and systems have been considered to ensure that this is regularly reviewed and updated. Overall, children's needs are met.

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

Not applicable.

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

Since registration 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 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):

- ensure that all medication records clearly indicate the date of entry.

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)