

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY103248
Inspection date	20 June 2007
Inspector	Linda Phillips
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 2002. She lives with her husband and child aged 13 in the west of Kingston upon Hull. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding including toilet facilities. The childminder walks and uses her car to take children to a local nursery, shops and on regular outings.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding six on a part time basis.

The childminder has a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder holds an appropriate first aid certificate and a first aid box is easily accessible within the kitchen. Clear records are maintained on accidents and home injuries. Should a child sustain a head injury, parents are supplied with additional information obtained from the

internet as to actions they can take to further protect their child. The detailed written sick children policy informs parents of when a child will not be accepted for care, to help prevent the spread of infections to others. Written consents are sought from parents to administer medication, for the childminder to seek medical advice in emergencies, and for the use of hypo-allergenic plasters. All these contribute to children remaining healthy and well.

The childminder has a good understanding of how children's good health is promoted. Children learn about their personal hygiene through normal daily routines, for example, they use paper hand towels after using the toilet and dispose of them independently in the waste bin without prompting. Good nappy changing practices are carried out by the childminder who, for example, routinely washes her own hands and disposes of nappies directly into the outside bin. Pet management is appropriately addressed as the childminder has a dog.

Children benefit from having their sleep routines continue when in the childminder's care. Parents are asked to inform the childminder of routines, for example, children sleep securely in prams with dummies for comfort.

Children have good opportunities each day to enjoy physical play, both in and out of the home. They walk to and from a nursery and are taken regularly to soft play centres. They also benefit from additional robust exercises as they regularly play out in the garden and enjoy having races with each other.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of healthy eating, including the need for children to have drinking water and juice accessible at all times. Children help themselves independently to drinks from the low level table in the dining room which the childminder replenishes regularly. Parents supply packed lunches, in addition to which the childminder offers healthy snacks of fresh fruit and biscuits. Children sit at the table for meals where they are encouraged to learn good table manners and to develop their social skills. Special diets are catered for appropriately including children who are vegetarian. Parents are requested to inform the childminder of any likes, dislikes and requests in writing. Children benefit from being taken out for lunch where they are encouraged to choose meals for themselves, for example, healthy pasta dishes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children remain safe within the home, for example, there is a written fire procedure, the fire blanket is easily accessible and a carbon monoxide detector has been purchased. Children are reminded of the fire procedure and learn to take responsibility for their own actions. The childminder also ensures her gas appliances are professionally tested annually. To ensure children continue to remain safe in emergencies, parents have given written consent for children to be cared for by another local registered childminder. Only the ground floor of the home is used, and minded children are reminded of this as there is a safety gate at the foot of the stairs.

Children benefit from being cared for in a home that is welcoming, well decorated and furnished. There is adequate space for them to play and rooms are suitably organised, have central heating and adequate natural light. When in the dining room children benefit from additional fresh air as the patio doors are opened. However, the fire officer recommendations are not fully complied with to ensure that all children can escape easily in an emergency.

The extensive range of age and ability appropriate toys, play materials and resources are of very good quality. They are stored safely at low-level to enable children to self-select independently.

Children are safeguarded from harm. The childminder clearly understands her role in child protection issues and is fully aware of the procedures to follow should a concern arise. A written child protection policy is shared with parents, which includes, for example, that any concerns would be passed on to appropriate agencies by her should the need arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have daily opportunities to select from an extensive range of good quality toys and play materials, such as dolls, small world figures, train tracks and a wide range of quality books. They are encouraged to self-select items or are prompted by the childminder, which are stored within the lounge and dining room at low level. They are well aware of a music bag, the contents of which are aids when singing nursery rhymes and songs. The children participate in this activity with enthusiasm and excitement. Children are taken out regularly to various groups and soft play centres in the mornings where opportunities arise for them to make new friends. During the afternoons, activities and opportunities are very much spontaneous according to the ages of the children, their sleep routines and the weather.

The childminder retains photographs in an album, with written parental consent, of children in their play both in and out of the home. Parents are also informed of activities and outings as individual daily records of events are maintained.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal concern by the childminder who respects their differences and individuality. All children are welcome regardless of ethnic origin, social class and home background. A written policy is shared with parents. Although children currently minded are all pre-school age, they are nonetheless, being gently and slowly introduced to diversity through age appropriate books, dressing up clothes and opportunities.

To help them become confident children and to promote their self-esteem they learn about appropriate behaviour. They are gently reminded of basic house rules, for example, taking turns, sharing and generally being kind to one another. Children are rewarded for their positive actions and behaviour through being constantly praised, given stickers, and are encouraged to choose the next activity or outing.

The childminder works in close partnership with parents, for example, she verbally shares information on a daily basis as well as giving parents a written account of the days events. Good relationships have been built and written contracts are agreed with all parents. A wide range of written parental consents are obtained, for example, the using of hypo-allergenic plasters, outings and seeking medical advice in emergencies. Parents are supplied with 21 detailed and comprehensive policies and procedures informing them exactly of how the childminder operates her service. For continuity of care parents are informed well in advance of the childminder's holidays to enable them to make alternative arrangements for the children.

Clear systems are in place which enable children to settle quickly and happily in the care of the childminder, for example, trial sessions and settling in periods are offered. There is a clear written settling-in policy.

The childminder is fully aware of maintaining a written record of any complaints she may receive, and a complaints procedure is available. Although the procedure does make reference to the regulatory body the address and telephone number is incorrect.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Good written records which are up to date with relevant information are maintained. The detailed and informative portfolio contains all the childminder's personalised policies and procedures. It also includes general information regarding the services she offers and reflects the good management of her provision. This is shared with parents, as are all other written records.

The system for recording the children's attendance is very clear with arrival and departure times being recorded precisely.

To further enhance the safety of children the childminder has a written policy stating that wherever possible, visitors to the home are discouraged during childminding hours. As a result, children are not in contact with people who have not been vetted.

The childminder prominently displays her registration certificate enabling all parents to easily see she has permission to care for an additional children under five years for continuity of care.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two recommendations were made relating to promoting the health of young children, through making the garden safe from dog fouling and making available the sick children policy.

To ensure children are safe when playing in the garden, the childminder now checks it prior to children going outside, effectively ensuring a safe environment. The detailed sick children policy informs parents of actions the childminder takes should a child become ill in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 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

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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 further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure fire safety officers recommendations are complied with in relation to external doors being operable without the use of keys
- ensure the correct address and telephone number of the regulator body is on the complaints procedure.

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