

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	314258
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Marie Lefevre

<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
<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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

the time of the inspection there were no children in receipt of nursery education. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide nursery education.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since November 1989. She is approved to mind a maximum of six children at a time. There are currently eight children under eight years of age attending at various times; there are also three children who are aged eight years and over. The childminder is a member of an accredited childminder network and has childcare qualifications; however, no funded children have been placed since July 2007.

The household consists of the childminder, her husband and daughter. The childminder's husband and daughter are also approved to work as her assistants. Their home is a detached house located in a modern private housing estate on the outskirts of Hull. The setting is a short distance from shops, schools and other local amenities. Minded children have access to the

living/dining room, kitchen and cloakroom on the ground floor. The first floor is not used for minding purposes. The front garden is used for access to the premises. The rear garden is used for supervised outdoor activities.

Children are taken to local resources on a regular basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are very well protected as the childminder ensures that their health, hygiene and dietary needs are met effectively. Their health requirements are highlighted in the really well organised records and in other relevant information. Accident and medication recording systems are in place and mainly very well maintained with confidentiality being respected. However, although there are comprehensive medication dosage records for each child, there is also a brief version which has more than one child noted. There is a very well stocked first aid kit in place which is replenished and checked to ensure that dated items are current. The childminder has completed first aid and food hygiene training. Children develop their understanding of maintaining a healthy body in many activities and daily routines. Babies and toddlers are made comfortable for naps and are supervised throughout. There are sensitive and hygienic nappy changing procedures. The childminder sees that children really benefit from being cared for in a healthy environment.

Children are helped to develop their understanding of health and hygiene in their daily routines and activities as well as from the excellent example set by the childminder. They really benefit from being in premises which are clean and comfortable. Children are actively encouraged to take responsibility as they gain age appropriate awareness of why it is important to wash their hands before handling food or after going to the toilet and after messy play. Each child has an individually labelled clean towel and they use liquid soap to minimise cross infection. In addition, children are encouraged to keep their play space tidy after activities or help dry the plates they have used at meal times. They benefit from the excellent guidance and support provided by the childminder.

Children benefit as the childminder has a very clear understanding of healthy eating and ensures they have a balanced and nutritious diet. Children enjoy a variety of fresh fruit or may have other options, such as a toasted tea cake at snack time. Balanced main meals are also provided. Children are encouraged to have regular, readily accessible drinks; there is a water dispenser in the setting, which may also be taken out into the garden. Children sit comfortably at a child sized table and younger ones in a high chair to enjoy a pleasant, relaxed social occasion during meal times. They also have many good opportunities to see how food arrives on the table as they go shopping for ingredients and help prepare some meals, such as being fully supervised chopping ingredients for stir fry. Menus are displayed for parents. The childminder has strategies in place to ensure that any special dietary needs are met effectively.

Children develop their physical and emotional well-being in a wide range of exciting indoor and outdoor activities. They are able to gain lots of exercise and fresh air from supervised outdoor play where they can have energetic fun in the enclosed garden. Children may visit a local park, walk in the countryside or visit an activity farm. They enjoy chatting about the things they see and link their visits to projects when they return to the childminder's home. Children also have many opportunities to socialise with other children and adults, for example, as they join in activities with other childminders and children in their network.

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

The provision is good.

Children develop their sense of independence as they use the designated childcare areas with excellent, age-appropriate supervision and support from the childminder. The premises are really welcoming and well organised for children to use safely. The childminder diligently encourages children to be aware of hazards, both in and outside the home, in daily routines and in activities. The childminder is also conscious of keeping children safe out of the home environment in the community, for example, they are helped to understand about road safety and being careful when near traffic.

The childminder ensures the premises are safe and secure. Formal risk assessments are done. Many effective measures have been taken, for example, exit doors are secured so that children do not leave without adult supervision, electric sockets are covered and safety gates are in place. A fire guard is securely fitted to the fireplace, a fire blanket is located on the kitchen wall for ease of use and smoke alarms are in place. There is a fire safety policy and plan for evacuation of the premises. In addition children participate in fire drills and a record is kept in relation to these.

Children use a wide variety of good quality equipment and toys so they can play in safety. They respond well to guidance about the appropriate use of these resources. Children are protected as the childminder ensures that the toys, equipment and furniture are in a sound and clean condition by checking items regularly. She ensures that the play resources are appropriate for the age and stage of development of each child.

Children's welfare is promoted effectively by the childminder having documentation in place in relation to safety. Current public liability insurance has been obtained. Detailed policies and procedures are in place, including child protection and the childminder has participated in child protection training. Although there have been no concerns to date, the childminder has a clear understanding of child protection procedures, what signs to be aware of, who to contact and what to record if she has concerns in the future. Therefore, children are well protected in her care.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children clearly thrive and progress extremely well as they have many opportunities to enjoy a wealth of stimulating and exciting activities and projects. They have valuable learning

experiences and develop their knowledge and skills in lots of fun and imaginative ways. There is an excellent balance of resources in the setting so that children may pursue their individual interests as well as participate in group activities. Robust planning and monitoring is used to inform future planning and practice. Detailed files and scrap books show the wealth and quality of the care and education provided.

Children develop their understanding of number recognition, dimension, the written and spoken word, colour and shape in exciting games and projects. Many of the play resources enable children to gain an insight of life events, for example, they play games of pretend being doctors and nurses, seeing to patients needs and practising their writing skills in the appointment book. They enact the planning, booking and other elements of going on holiday in their travel agency role play. Children use lots of different art and craft materials to create lovely pictures and designs, for example, collages using different coloured pasta. They may choose from a wide range of dressing up clothing, construction toys, games, puzzles, musical activities, books and many other inspired playthings which promote and reinforce learning.

The childminder is very calm, warm and affectionate as she works with the children. She clearly values them and has an excellent understanding of how they learn and develop. She is extremely skilled at using a range of methods to promote and reinforce learning, for example, as she initiates and encourages thought provoking discussions to help children extend their knowledge and awareness. The childminder helps children to develop their vocabulary skills by using simple and clear language. She is adept in explaining why so that children are helped to understand events and activities. There is a sound knowledge of each child, and the wishes of parents, to ensure there is consistency and continuity for children to progress and learn effectively.

### Nursery Education

The childminder has not had funded children placed since July 2007, therefore, can only be judged as satisfactory as the actual education of funded children was not seen during this inspection.

The childminder:

- \* has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage and how young children learn
- \* is able to plan and provide a suitable range of activities and experiences across the six areas of learning, taking the needs of individual children into account
- \* is able to access children's progress towards the early learning goals and help move children to the next stage of their learning.

### Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children develop their awareness of equal opportunities and respecting individual needs from the childminder's very positive attitude and excellent example. There are many ways for children

to develop a greater understanding of their local community during their many varied outings. Children participate in activities relating to familiar celebrations, such as Christmas when they learn about the real meaning as well as participating in art and craft activities. They are also developing their understanding of the wider world, other countries and other cultures. Children learn about the Chinese New Year, help prepare and sample Chinese cooking. There are Chinese costumes and a display area in their play space with a lantern and wall hangings. They gain awareness of other countries, such as Australia in the display of books, boomerang and toy kangaroo. There is a wide range of resources that reflect differing cultures, backgrounds and abilities.

Children are encouraged to be polite and well behaved. They learn about sharing and valuing others from the excellent role model provided by the childminder. She gently and sensitively supports, praises and encourages them in daily routines and activities which helps children to develop their self-esteem, confidence and sense of belonging. The childminder actively encourages children to share their opinions and make decisions. Children are provided with many innovative age-appropriate challenges and respond well to clear guidance from the childminder; consequently they participate fully during each session.

Parents are fully involved in planning for the care of their children and the exchange of information necessary for their child's positive development. The childminder keeps them up to date in relation to daily activities, routines and events as well as health and safety issues. There are excellent, well organised and detailed information files which include policies, procedures and a wealth of other valuable contents relating to the care of children. There is an information pack for each family. On parental request, the childminder also maintains an excellent diary in relation to a younger child which contains valuable comments about the child's day. In addition, children share their experiences with parents as they may take lots of their delightful art and craft work home to show what they have achieved.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children really benefit from the childminder's very professional, caring, calm and focussed approach in her contact with them. This is reflected in the imaginative way she has organised child care areas in her home, in the excellent activities and projects provided and in the many effective health and safety measures taken.

Clearly defined and sensitive daily routines enable children to settle well and feel secure in the setting. The recording systems are detailed and are supplemented by written parental consents in relation to health and safety. Excellent files have been developed in relation to the Ofsted standards, child development and in relation to the service provided; these are used to ensure that the childminder and parents and carers are kept fully informed.

The childminder is highly motivated in her approach to developing her existing knowledge, skills and childcare awareness as she participates in a wealth of relevant training. She has completed quality assurance initiatives and extensive training in relation to the health, safety, education and care of children to enhance her already excellent practice.

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

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

There was one recommendation made at the last inspection in relation to making children aware of emergency evacuation procedures and keeping a record of fire drills. This has been met as children have opportunities to participate in fire drills which ensures that they become familiar with the procedure and these are recorded.

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

Since 1 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 the 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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION**

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

the time of the inspection there were no children in receipt of nursery education. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide nursery education.

### **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 medication records are kept so that confidentiality is maintained.

#### **The quality and standards of the nursery education**

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

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)