

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY340451       |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 31 August 2007 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Sara Louth     |
| <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 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 child aged one in Tattershall, Lincolnshire. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. Amenities such as shops, schools, a pre-school and a park are within walking distance. The childminder also uses her car to go further afield. The family keeps two cats and some fish as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and currently looks after three children on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She has a Level 3 qualification.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home. They generally learn the importance of good hygiene to protect their health. For example, children always wash their hands after using the toilet and before meals, although this is not always done before snack time. Children are protected from infection since the childminder does not care for anyone who is unwell, and parents are contacted to pick up sick children as soon as possible. Children's safety is maintained as the childminder has a current first aid certificate and is able to deal appropriately with any accidents. However, there is no written permission from parents for the seeking of emergency medical treatment or advice. This may compromise children's health.

Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise through daily walks or playing in the garden. The childminder believes children prefer to be outside and has a wide range of equipment to promote their physical health including a slide, seesaw, sandpit and balls. Children regularly visit the local park where they develop co-ordination and whole body strength using the slide, roundabout and swings. They have walks around the nearby lakes and develop their skills kicking balls on the communal grass beyond the garden. Children are able to rest comfortably when they wish in a travel cot with clean bedding provided for each of them.

Children enjoy healthy snacks such as fresh fruit, dried fruit and vegetable sticks and have plenty of drink, generally water or milk, to meet their needs. They have nutritious meals provided including chicken with vegetables and potatoes, pasta, egg on toast or choose to bring a packed meal from home. Either way children's food likes are met since the childminder works closely with parents to find out what they can eat and drink safely and enjoyably.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy playing in a warm and welcoming setting where they have space to make choices. A range of easily accessible, suitable toys is available to them enabling children to start to become independent. These include a push-along wooden truck containing bricks with numbers and letters, jigsaws, a ride-on shape sorter and a role-play kitchen. All relevant equipment is in place to meet young children's needs. For example, there is a bean bag in the lounge on which children can relax, a changing mat, a high chair, a booster seat, travel cot, double buggy and reins. However, the high chair and booster seat are not always used at snack time and the alternative child-size table and chairs are not totally effective. This has an impact on children's safety.

Children are closely supervised at all times and the childminder is very aware of providing a safe setting for them. All safety equipment is in place and working to ensure hazards are minimised. For example, a safety gate prevents unsupervised access upstairs, smoke detectors are checked regularly, the fire blanket and first aid box are easily accessible in the kitchen and sharp knives are kept out of reach. Children are kept safe on outings as they learn water safety by the lake and the safe way to cross roads. Younger children are strapped in a buggy or wear reins and older children walk close by. However, no written parental permission is in place for transporting children in a vehicle. This may impact on their safety.

Children are protected and their welfare safeguarded because the childminder is confident about recognising possible signs and symptoms of abuse and has good knowledge of Child Protection procedures. Parents are aware of her responsibilities through the child protection policy in her portfolio.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home where she creates a supportive, caring atmosphere. They are kept stimulated and interested by the childminder providing a variety of toys and activities that help them learn through play and support their development. For example, they enjoy painting, stories and playing with the toy garage and cars. The childminder involves herself with the children's play, following their interests and helping them to share with gentle encouragement. Children interact well with the childminder, sitting on her knee and having cuddles if they wish or confidently choosing toys to use independently.

The childminder thinks of a few ideas for the day's activities and tries to link craft activities to recent first-hand experiences enjoyed by the children. For example, on really windy days the children use pictures from catalogues to create washing lines. Children enjoy going to the lake, feeding the ducks, looking at the bugs and flowers, collecting and sticking leaves.

Children are encouraged to develop their language skills as the childminder values their contributions, listening and responding to what they say. This promotes their self-esteem. For example, one child looks at the fish in the tank. The childminder joins him and says 'Can you see the baby fish?' The child makes noises to communicate and the childminder responds, pointing out various fish, relating the conversation to the child's own experience and level of understanding. Both children sit on the childminder's knee for a story. They listen quietly showing a strong sense of belonging.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a positive attitude to equal opportunities and diversity. She welcomes all children and ensures they have equal access to all activities taking their needs into account. The childminder is happy to care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is prepared to undertake extra training and work closely with parents and carers to gain full understanding of her role.

Children behave well since the childminder has a good understanding of behaviour management. When one young child hits another the childminder calmly explains not to do that and continues to play with them, dealing with the incident appropriately according to their age. She works with parents and tries to pinpoint triggers to prevent any recurrent behaviour problems.

Children benefit from the childminder working closely with their parents and carers and she collects all the necessary information at the start to help them settle. She ensures parents and carers know what to expect from her service through sharing a portfolio with them. Information is shared on a daily basis with older children encouraged to talk about their day. The childminder understands the need to keep a complaint record.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by a childminder who is suitable because she enjoys being with children and is experienced in caring for them. She was previously a nanny, is currently a Brownie leader and has good understanding of how children develop and learn since she is qualified to NVQ Level Three. The childminder organises her home, the space and resources to meet children's needs.

Documentation provides a satisfactory framework for children's care since most is in place. It is stored safely, organised well and available for inspection. However, the childminder has no written parental permissions in place. Overall, children's needs are met. The childminder gives them her full attention and arranges every day for their benefit. She has attended all necessary training and intends to develop her skills further with more courses such as for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

## **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 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):

- ensure equipment used is appropriate for the developmental needs of the children
- ensure all written parental permissions are obtained especially for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment and for children to be transported in a vehicle.

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)