

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	208734
Inspection date	08 August 2007
Inspector	Jane Williams
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 registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and three children. They live in a ground floor flat, part of a block of four, in the Birchwood area of Lincoln city. It is within walking distance of shops, schools, pre-schools and parks. All areas of the flat are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has three pet cats. The childminder currently has nine children on roll.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and is the vacancy co-ordinator and contact person for the local childminding group. She regularly looks after children who have been placed with her by the Social Services Department.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm clean home. Their good health is promoted through sensible hygiene routines. Surfaces are cleaned using anti-bacterial sprays to reduce risks of cross infection. Children are learning about the importance of personal hygiene. They wash their

hands after using the toilet, before eating and after stroking the pet cats. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure the well-being of children if they are ill or have an accident. Appropriate medical records and parental permissions, including consents for emergency treatment are in place. Accidents are recorded in detail and parents sign to acknowledge entries in the record book.

Children are well nourished and healthy options are promoted. Agreements with parents are in place. Parents provide sandwiches for lunch and the childminder provides snacks and an evening meal if required. A healthy diet is encouraged as children are provided with a choice of fruit, yoghurts and biscuits for snack. A cooked meal such as meat with potatoes and vegetables is available. Children do not become thirsty as they are provided with regular drinks and have access to water. Children have good opportunities for fresh air and physical activity. They have fun playing outdoors on a wide range of equipment that is suitable for different ages and stages of development. Children's physical skills are developed as they practise climbing and sliding down on a small or large slide. They delight in playing with plastic balls in a small tent. Young children enjoy spending time on the small seesaw. Children enjoy the fresh air as they do chalking on the blackboard or sit chatting with their friends under the tent.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into the family home. Certificates and posters are displayed in the hallway to keep parents informed. The living room is welcoming to children as toys, games and books are displayed on shelving and are accessible. Children have access to suitable toilet and washing facilities. Children are able to play with a wide range of toys and equipment that are in good condition and clean.

The childminder keeps hazards to a minimum through safety precautions. For example, safety mats are under large play equipment outdoors and a safety gate prevents unsupervised access to the kitchen. The premises are, in the main, kept secure. However, there are some occasions when the outside gate and the main door are not fully secure. As a result children's safety is not always effectively ensured. Children have opportunities to learn about keeping themselves safe. They regularly practise emergency escapes and discuss road safety when out on walks. Children's welfare is promoted because the childminder has good understanding of child protection issues and the procedures to follow if there are safeguarding concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled with the childminder. They are actively engaged in a variety of activities that they enjoy. Children happily play together in groups, with one other person or alone. They are able to access and choose from toys and equipment that meet their individual needs. Board games provide opportunities for children to play together, learn to follow rules and cooperate. Their imagination is developed as they become involved in small world play. Creativity and writing skills are encouraged through access to chalk and a blackboard. A good range of books provide opportunities to share and read stories. Children enjoy creating and acting out their own version of familiar fairy tales.

Younger children's development is encouraged through the childminder's good knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. She makes use of the framework to provide ideas for appropriate activities. Children relate well to the childminder and to one another. They play

very well together. Older children happily support and help younger ones. Children are at ease and enjoy the company of one another and the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and treated with equal concern. The childminder encourages equal access to toys and resources for all children. Children are learning about the differences between people and their cultures through a range of activities. They have fun dressing up in festival clothes for Mardi Gras, making dragons and lanterns for the Chinese New Year. They learn about a variety of religious customs such as the Jewish Sabbath day, Hanukah and Christmas. Children have opportunities to experience their own community through visits to places of interest such as nature parks, National Trust houses and museums. They visit local shops and are able to socialize with other children at the local childminders weekly coffee mornings. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are supported because the childminder understands the need to work with parents and adapt activities when necessary. Children are well behaved, polite and caring of one another. The childminder encourages children to be thoughtful and kind. The needs of children are effectively met because of the partnership between the childminder and parents. She ensures parents are kept informed through daily chats. A copy of the setting's policies is provided to parents. An appropriate complaints procedure is in place.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a childminder who has a clear sense of commitment. She develops her own knowledge and skills through training so that children's welfare is ensured. Their safety is promoted because she maintains a first aid certificate. Through good organisation of space children are able to play, eat and sleep comfortably. Children feel at home in the environment and are able to access toys confidently. Children's welfare, learning and development is effectively supported as the childminder ensures records such as attendance, medical and accident are maintained. Appropriate policies are in place and these are shared with parents. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was requested to improve her knowledge of equal opportunities and how children develop and learn. The childminder demonstrates good understanding of equal opportunities and through training has increased her understanding of child development and learning. As a result outcomes for children have improved.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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):

- consistently ensure premises are secure, with particular regard to the door and outside gate.

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