

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	260484
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 September 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 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 2000. She lives with her husband and two children, aged ten and eight in Potterhanworth Booths, Lincolnshire. All areas of the property except the main bedroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder uses her car to access amenities such as shops, schools, a pre-school and parks. The family keeps two goldfish as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and currently looks after four children before and after school.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She meets regularly with other childminders in the local area.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean, welcoming home. They learn the importance of good hygiene to protect their health. For example, children always wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating meals. The childminder provides a towel on which to dry their hands which is replaced daily to help prevent cross infection. Children's health is further protected by the childminder making parents aware that she does not care for children who are unwell. She is able to deal appropriately with any accidents since she has a current first aid certificate.

Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise through regularly playing in the garden. They run around freely and choose items to use from a wide range of equipment, such as tricycles, skipping ropes, space hoppers and scooters. Children play with large play equipment such as swings and slides which strengthens their whole bodies and have opportunity to use bats and balls to develop their hand-eye co-ordination. Children have a healthy lifestyle promoted by the childminder in conjunction with the school. She occasionally parks her car on the outskirts of the village and walks with the children to school to support 'Walking Bus' week.

Children are provided with nutritious home-made hot meals like lasagne and roast dinner as the childminder likes to promote healthy eating believing it is beneficial for children's growth and development. They are offered fresh fruit or biscuits for snack and drinks are provided regularly and when required. Children's food likes are met because the childminder works closely with parents to make sure she knows of any special dietary needs.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and 'at home' in the setting where they have space to enjoy different activities at the same time. A wide range of suitable toys are easily available to the children enabling them to make choices and develop their independence as well as promoting interest in their play. All toys and resources are maintained in good condition and the childminder checks them regularly for safety and cleanliness. Children have their work valued and build self-esteem through their work being displayed on the walls of the playroom.

Children are cared for in a safe setting since the childminder is very aware of its importance. All necessary safety equipment is in place and working such as smoke alarms and socket covers, fire blanket and first aid kit. Children take part in fire drills so they know what to do in the event of an emergency and the childminder has a clear evacuation procedure. All exits are usually locked at all times with the keys removed. However, the front door, although shut was unlocked. This may compromise children's safety. Children learn to keep themselves safe when they are out, as the childminder teaches them road safety, and a poster by the front door reinforces the message each time they go past. The childminder keeps children safe as they walk in front of her and young children are secured in a pram or buggy.

Children are protected and their welfare safeguarded because the childminder is confident about recognising possible signs and symptoms of abuse and has a secure knowledge of child protection procedures. She has attended training and makes parents aware of her responsibilities regarding child protection through a clear policy.

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

The provision is good.

Children arrive at the setting from school and head straight for the garden. They enjoy riding bicycles and playing on the swings, rocker and slide. The childminder supports their play well by providing a range of accessible outdoor toys and joining in with them sensitively following their lead. She helps one child to ride a bike by pushing him around the garden. Children are valued and helped to develop their physical skills.

Children are cared for according to their parents' wishes. The childminder offers a range of activities and resources to support their development and progress intellectually, emotionally and socially such as colouring, dressing up, outdoor toys and the computer. However, parents do not want organised activities for their older children since they have been at school all day, preferring them to have free choice at all times. Children are encouraged to follow their own interests and have space and time to relax if they choose.

Children have their interests supported by the childminder who finds out what they are interested in and provides activities and toys that are stimulating to develop their learning. Children enjoy using the computer. One child says he likes the Crazy Golf game and he has it at home too. The childminder does no formal planning, though days have a general routine structured around school runs and younger children's rest needs. Children are taken to the shops, the park and local toddler groups to extend their social skills.

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

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed and their backgrounds respected and valued by the childminder who tries to meet the needs of every child and parent/carer. Children have their self-esteem promoted as the childminder supports them in school activities if their parents are unable to attend. They learn about the wider world through discussion of festivals and using resources, such as books. The childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and is happy to learn new skills to promote their welfare and development in partnership with their parents/carers.

Children behave well because the childminder has clear house rules such as 'No jumping on the furniture' and they know they must share and all try and get on with each other. Children respond well to methods used to manage their behaviour. For example, when a child stands up at the top of the slide the childminder says 'Be careful up there. No, we don't jump. What do we do? We come down the slide please.' She stays close by and encourages the child to use the slide properly. She reinforces positive behaviour through praise saying 'That's lovely now. That's better thank you' to children playing on the rocker.

Children are cared for according to their parents/carers wishes and settle quickly since the childminder finds out as much as she can about them. She ensures parents and carers know all about the setting and shares her portfolio with them so they know what to expect from the service. Information is shared verbally on a daily basis. The childminder has a complaints policy in place and understands the need to keep a record of any received.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a childminder who is suitable because she enjoys being with them. They benefit from her experience, since she has been minding for several years and also works at the local school. Children's needs are met as the childminder arranges the space in her home effectively to enable them to have room for active play, rest and sleep as required.

Documentation is organised well, stored safely, reviewed regularly and available for inspection. This provides a good framework for the care of children. The childminder has attended all necessary training and keeps her knowledge up to date through attending further training regularly. Recent courses attended include a risk assessment course in March 2007 and one on Allergy and Anaphylaxis Awareness in May 2007. She is booked on more courses including Safety in the Home for Childminders and the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Overall, children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that all the required documentation and records are obtained and kept, with reference to written permission to transport and accidents and to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues including procedures to be followed in the event of suspected abuse of a child or allegations against the childminder or their family. She was also asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promotes their understanding of the similarities and differences between people, with reference to gender, disability, race and culture.

The childminder has obtained written permission from all parents for transporting their children in a vehicle and written permission for obtaining emergency medical treatment or advice. All the required documentation and records are now kept. This ensures the children's health and safety.

The childminder has developed her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues through attending both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Child Protection courses. She has read all the guidance and books and has a clear Child Protection policy in place which includes the procedures to be followed in the event of suspected abuse of a child or allegations against the childminder or their family. This ensures children's safety.

The childminder has obtained a range of appropriate resources to promote children's understanding of the similarities and differences between people, with reference to gender, disability, race and culture. These include puppets to make, books such as 'Children of Britain Just Like Me' and dolls with disabilities such as in a wheelchair. All resources are easily accessed by children who help themselves to activities out of the box. The childminder intends to attend training in this area. This develops children's understanding of the wider world.

## **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):

- ensure the premises are made secure at all times to promote children's safety.

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)