

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	313312
Inspection date	19 March 2008
Inspector	Josephine Ann Northend
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 lives with her husband and adult daughter in an end-terraced house on the periphery of a large estate on the outskirts of Kingston upon Hull. In the immediate area is a senior school and green belt area. Within a short bus journey is the large Bransholme shopping centre, medical services and leisure facilities.

Minded children use the ground floor of the house, which includes the lounge, kitchen/dining room and toilet facilities. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear of the property for outdoor activities.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years and currently cares for three children. There is also one child over eight years attending. The childminder is a member of both the Hull Childcare Network and the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder has some good hygiene routines in place to protect and promote children's health. The clear policies and procedures in place, regarding sick children, medication and accident recording, ensure children's health needs are met, however, consent to gain emergency medical advice or treatment has not been requested from parents. Procedures followed by the childminder result in children being protected from the spread of infection, for example, as they learn why they need to wash their hands after using the toilet.

Children enjoy a varied range of activities which contribute to their good health. They enjoy regular visits to the local amenities, including parks. Children walk to and from school each day and use a range of large equipment in the enclosed garden, for example, scooters, balls and a battery operated car. This means they have fresh air and exercise each day and their physical development is promoted. Children are able to rest and be active according to their individual needs.

The childminder demonstrates good understanding of healthy eating and she works with parents to ensure children's individual dietary needs are met. Parents provide packed lunches for their children and the childminder provides varied snacks with healthy options. Children have access to drinks throughout the day

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a child orientated and friendly home where most risks are identified and minimised. This means children are generally able to move around safely, freely and independently. However, alcohol is stored in the downstairs toilet and harmful substances are stored in an unlocked accessible kitchen cupboard. Emergency evacuation procedures are in place and practised with the children.

Furniture, equipment and toys, which are of good quality and in a safe, well maintained condition, are provided to promote children's development and welfare. Toys and resources are stored so that children can reach them easily, make choices and develop their independence.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documentation in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded. They are well protected as the childminder has clear understanding of her responsibilities with regards to child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well settled and happy in the childminder's care. They have warm relationships with the childminder and they learn to be increasingly independent as a result of the support, praise and encouragement given to them, for example, when making Easter cards. Communication skills are well supported through good adult to child interactions, for example, children describe what they are doing and the childminder offers suggestions. This contributes to their sense of belonging.

The childminder demonstrates understanding of how children learn and she is very aware of the children's developmental stages. An interesting range of activities are planned and undertaken which take into account children's individual interests. The childminder makes good use of the local amenities to further enhance children's experiences, for example, they visit play parks, museums and the seaside.

Activities and play opportunities are purposeful and developmentally appropriate, resulting in children acquiring new skills and knowledge. The children receive good support from the childminder and they are involved in a wide range of activities that promote learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the local and wider society through the resources and activities provided by the childminder. These include visits in the local and wider community. The childminder promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice as she ensures all children are fully involved in the life of the setting; this means they feel valued and free from discrimination. The childminder has a very positive attitude towards caring for all children, including those with physical disabilities or learning difficulties.

The childminder uses positive strategies for managing behaviour. This helps the children to understand the boundaries set and to behave well. The childminder uses her experience well to provide a positive atmosphere in which children can feel relaxed and secure.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has developed with their parents. Verbal information is shared on a daily basis. This enables the childminder to meet each child's individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children are well settled with the childminder and in the environment. This means that they are happy in their play. Space is used to cater for the children's play needs and they are able to move around independently. Adult-child ratios are maintained with good organisation of time to allow children one-to-one attention and meet individual needs.

The childminder has a positive attitude to training. Required records are in place but the accident and medication records have not been used as the childminder has not needed to use them. However, the childminder demonstrated good understanding of what is required. Some written policies are in place to support the childminder's practice. This means the care of children is promoted. 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 the childminder was asked to complete a daily attendance register and make sure documentation is available. The daily attendance register is now in place and clearly shows the times of children's attendance. Required documentation is now in place. This means children's welfare is promoted.

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):

- gain consent from parents for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment
- make sure harmful substances including alcohol are inaccessible to children.

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