

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	314039
Inspection date	13 November 2007
Inspector	Karen Marie Tervit
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 was registered in April 1989. She lives with her husband and adult children. The family live in the village of Staindrop. The house is situated in the centre of the village within easy distance of local amenities, including schools, pre-schools and shops. The ground floor and upstairs bathroom are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The family has one pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for seven children under eight years and one child over eight years on a full and part-time basis. She takes and collects children to and from school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a warm, clean and well-maintained home. They learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care and develop good practices as they take part in daily routines. For example, they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times which helps to

develop their self-care skills. This has been made into a successful game for younger children with a duck sat in the bathroom watching them to check that they have remembered. The childminder has all of the appropriate documentation in place to support children's health needs, such as written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment. Detailed records of accidents are maintained, however, parents do not always sign these to acknowledge that they have been informed. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate which ensures that the treatment of injuries is carried out appropriately.

The childminder is aware of the need to provide a balanced diet and to encourage children to eat healthy foods, to promote their continued growth and development. She provides them with healthy snacks, such as fresh fruit they have picked themselves from the childminder's garden. Drinks are offered to children on a regular basis. Older children enjoy helping to prepare meals, using fresh local produce. Suitable arrangements are in place which ensure that meals provided by parents for babies are appropriately stored and prepared.

Children are developing their physical skills with a wide range of suitable activities both inside and outside. For example, they get fresh air and exercise during their walks and visits to the park, as well as being able to play in the very well resourced and attractively set out garden. These activities help children stay fit and healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to a well organised environment. It is made welcoming by colourful displays of children's work and an extensive range of resources being available, which can be independently selected by the children. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. For example, she ensures younger children cannot access the small pieces in older children's games. Children move around freely within the home protected by the appropriate safety measures in place. For example, there are safety gates in place and all low level sockets are protected. There is a written emergency evacuation procedure, which is practised and recorded. Older children also thoroughly enjoy discussing how they would get out of the house in an emergency. Children learn the importance of keeping safe on outings through the effective procedures the childminder has in place.

Children are well protected by the childminder who is confident and secure in her knowledge of child protection policies and procedures. The childminder also has a copy of 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' to refer to if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Exceptionally warm relationships between the childminder and the children contribute to children's sense of belonging. Established children are introduced to new children in an extremely sensitive manner, for example they are given their own baby dolls to care for when the childminder starts to care for new babies. They take part in a very wide range of interesting and exciting indoor and outdoor activities, for example, fishing, treasure hunts in the garden or walks in the local countryside. They select freely from the exceptionally well organised resources and are skilfully guided by the childminder to extend their own learning. They are inquisitive and interested in the toys available, even babies concentrate for long periods of time as they post items into boxes or play with the bricks. Children, of all ages engage in an

exceptionally wide range of art and craft activities, which they thoroughly enjoy. Older children are able to plan their own parties and themes. They thoroughly enjoy playing games, such as memorising the items under the cloth on a tray or word games where they say and spell words backwards.

Children cooperate well with each other. They talk happily about their play and are confident to ask for what they need. They receive lots of praise and encouragement for their efforts, which helps to develop their self-esteem. They are confident to play alone, but also to seek close interaction. Children make independent choices about play. They select from an excellent range of quality, age appropriate resources. Even very young children thoroughly enjoy mark making in their notepad or singing and doing the actions to their favourite rhymes. The childminder has developed very good links with the local pre-school and school so that she can build upon what children are learning there. She has a clear understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and implements this effectively. All children are assessed using observations regularly and these are used effectively with parents to plan the next stage of learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world, increasing children's understanding of others. Children use relevant resources within the home, such as play figures, books, jigsaws and food. They are also beginning to learn simple Spanish words and developing their skills with basic sign language. Older children especially enjoy learning about different countries as they complete jigsaw puzzles depicting the world. Regular trips into the local environment widen their experiences. They visit local parks and shops. The childminder works hard to provide an inclusive environment where all children are valued. Children show a sense of belonging in the childminder's home, settling well and making choices about what they do. Their self-esteem is developed as they receive regular praise and encouragement for their efforts. Children are polite and behave very well.

A good relationship has been established between the childminder and parents. Children are looked after according to parents' wishes, following discussion at the initial visit. This enables her to offer the child appropriate support. Parents are kept informed about what children are going to do and are updated when they pick their children up. They can receive detailed written information if they wish. Photographs are also used to let parents see what their children have been doing, however, there is no written permission in place from parents for this. Parents know how to complain and are given lots of useful information in the brochure and policies. Parents and carers written comments about the care their children receive is very positive, they state that they are very happy and that they are making very good progress.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is greatly enhanced by the good organisation. The childminder plans ahead possible activities, which are flexible, based on the children's needs. Good daily routines allow children to experience a range of exciting activities in the home and wider community. They feel at home and at ease in the well organised environment. They self-select resources with ease, from the wide range available. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning as well as being well supported by the childminder.

The childminder has attended training since her last inspection. For example, she has recently updated her first aid, has attended courses to help with homework, children's speech and language development. This has helped to increase her understanding of good childcare. She uses her knowledge effectively to provide children with a wide range of learning experiences and better outcomes for children. The childminder's certificate of registration is clearly displayed.

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 agreed to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and make available to parents a statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint. The childminder has written parental permission in place for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. She also has a written complaints policy along with a log for parents to record their comments.

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

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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 parents sign the record of accidents
- gain written parental permission for taking photographs.

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