

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	405113
Inspection date	15 January 2008
Inspector	Jennifer Anne Marsh

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 1984. She lives with her husband and adult son in a house situated in Bottesford, a village on the outskirts of Scunthorpe. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is available for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

A maximum of five children under eight years maybe cared for at anyone time. There are currently four children who attend for a variety of sessions.

The childminder has access to a car for school collections and local outings. She attends local carer and toddler groups on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the environment they are cared for in is very clean and well maintained. Any risk to cross infection is minimised as the childminder implements effective

hygiene practice during food preparation and nappy changing. Children show competence in managing simple personal hygiene practice, such as independently washing hands after visiting the toilet.

Every morning the children fully enjoy musical dance activities to exercise their growing bodies. The childminder promotes daily outdoor play to develop children's physical skills and to enjoy the benefits of lots of fresh air. During inclement weather the children visit large soft play areas or the childminder arranges suitable indoor activities to enhance the children's gross motor skills.

Children enjoy and are becoming aware of the importance of a healthy diet because the childminder works closely with parents regarding the arrangements and provision of children's meals. She is sensitive to the individual dietary needs of all children. Children choose from a range of healthy snacks, such as red or green grapes and banana. Children benefit on a cold day from a home-cooked nutritious hot midday meal of swede, carrots, mashed potato and meat. Drinks of fresh juice and water are always readily accessible to the children in their individual cups.

There are very good arrangements in place to care for children's medical needs. Correct records are maintained regarding recording accidents and administering medication. The childminder undertakes specialist training from parents and nurses, to ensure individual medical needs are met and that children are well cared for in the event of an emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe because they are cared for in a home where the childminder identifies and minimises any potential risks. Risk assessments are completed and all safety equipment as required is in place. Children move around freely and safely. They independently select good quality toys from low accessible storage.

There are good fire precautions in place. The childminder uses first hand experiences to help children become aware of keeping themselves safe. For example, whilst watching a television programme, children are inquisitive about the fire service. The childminder acts on this interest initiated by the children and arranges a visit with the local station where children learn from fire officers the importance of fire safety. An emergency evacuation practice is completed on the children's return and has a positive impact on the children's understanding of fire safety.

Children are kept safe whilst playing out and outings. They are well supervised and all outdoor play equipment is positioned on chipped bark and an enclosure round the trampoline helps protect children from falls. Children are learning road safety through good example from the older children and listening to careful instructions from the childminder. Careful explanation of seat belt safety reminds children that they must not undo their belts when travelling in the car.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. All contact details are in date with the Local Safeguarding Children Board policies and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children feel at home in the setting and enjoy the company of the other children. A flexible settling in period meets the children's needs well. Music playing in the background is calming and encourages lots of humming and singing from the children whilst they play. Children have close bonds and are affectionate towards each other. They often enjoy a cuddle and laugh with delight as they enjoy a tickle session. Children willingly talk about their experiences from home. For example, their party and the pink cake, they happily discuss their forth coming holidays and flying on a plane.

Children's creativity is being developed well through some innovative ideas from the childminder. For example, there are themes developed around the small garden bridge which change dependant on seasons and children's interests. This enriches the children's imagination as they play 'trip trap' over the bridge to escape from the fierce troll. The children also make a pretend pond under the bridge and use it for counting rhymes, such as five little ducks and frogs. All children enjoy contributing to a creative snowman display, sticking on eyes or cutting out snowflakes.

Children's social skills are developed as they enjoy regular outings with other local childminder's children. They fully enjoy bug hunts, soft play areas and picnics. All activities are well planned and are flexible enough to allow for ideas initiated by the children. The progress of the children's development is regular observed by the childminder and clearly recorded in individual assessments.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder displays a positive attitude towards equality and diversity. She effectively meets and supports the individual needs of all the children. She actively completes relevant training to ensure children and families with additional needs are extremely well supported. Children show good self esteem and a sense of belonging, they feel valued as the childminder listens to what each child has to say. They receive lots of praise which raises the children's self esteem.

Children's awareness of the local community and the world around them is fostered very well. They visit lots of local places of interest, such as the farm and country parks. Children learn about other cultures other than their own when they celebrate festivals, such as Chinese New Year and visit the local Sikh temple.

Children benefit from the friendly and professional relationship between the childminder and parents. They work closely together to ensure children's needs are met. Parents are informed daily about their children's progress. This includes clear written observations about the children's activities and development. However, parental information on contact details for Ofsted are not immediately available. Parents comment very positively about the care their children receive describing the home as a friendly home environment.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The home and space is well organised to meet the children's needs. Children's happiness and comfort is a main priority to the childminder. She has a wealth of experience in caring for children and displays a very positive attitude to continue her training in childcare practice. She is working towards further qualifications to increase her knowledge of childcare issues and to ensure care and learning of the children is enhanced.

All the required records that contribute to the health and well-being of the children are accurately maintained and regularly monitored for updates. The certificate of registration is displayed but not clearly visible to parents and visitors. Clear written policies and procedures guide the childminder well in her work and help promote consistency of care for the children.

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 continue to access further training. The childminder regularly accesses training and is working towards a further childcare qualification to enhance the care and learning the children receive.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the childminder or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The childminder 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 Ofsted contact details are available to parents
- ensure the certificate of registration is clearly displayed.

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