

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY281916
Inspection date	15 February 2008
Inspector	Sharon Waterfall
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 2004 and lives with her husband and three children. They live in the town of Coningsby in Lincolnshire. The whole of the ground floor is registered for care, with children having access to the lounge, dining area and kitchen. At the rear of the premises is a secure garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children under eight years of age at any one time. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and the family have a pet cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about the importance of personal hygiene through the childminder's excellent role modelling and her patient persistence in explanations and demonstrations. They are encouraged and supported in developing skills of self-reliance with regard to personal hygiene through the equipment provided by the childminder, for example, liquid soap and individual flannels. The children are also encouraged to clean their teeth after meals and potty training

children wash their hands in preparation for full toilet training. Written policies and practical procedures effectively promote children's health and are instrumental in protecting children from the spread of infection, though accident records are missing minor details. There is an effective sickness policy and appropriate measures are taken when children are ill to ensure their health needs are met.

Children benefit from a healthy diet and children's attitude to healthy snacks is encouraged as they are able to choose for themselves. They enjoy a variety of nutritious meals, which comply with children's dietary requirements and their own preferences. Drinks are freely available to the children at all times ensuring that they are hydrated and development continues as children move through the stages of independence; moving to open top cups for drinking.

An excellent range of physical play opportunities are provided for the children. The childminder uses her knowledge of child development to ensure that within the home she stimulates children's natural milestone development. They draw and paint on the patio in the garden, use pipes and guttering to explore how water and balls flow and move. Climbing equipment in the garden, at local parks and toddler groups aids children in extending and developing their large physical skills and coordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are able to move around the home safely and do so with confidence. Their sense of belonging is fostered by displays of their creative work around the environment, both individual creations and joint collages. They have independent access from child height storage and the childminder ensures their choices are safe and supervises their play. The outdoor area is used regularly and is also well-organised to provide an enticing area for play. An exciting range of resources are available, that meet the differing levels of needs required when caring for a varied age range of children. Progress records and future steps for learning are used by the childminder to ensure activities are challenging, interesting and meet all areas of development.

Children's safety is of the utmost priority and a written risk assessment of the property ensures children are not exposed to hazards, as they have been identified and minimised. The children are actively involved in the emergency evacuation procedures and learn about road and personal safety when in the local environment. Procedures for emergency situations are extremely effective, as they are carried, when out with the children.

Thorough and comprehensive procedures and a strong knowledge of child protection issues, ensures that children are protected from child abuse and neglect. The childminder has completed up to date training in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

An excellent balance of child-initiated, adult-led, spontaneous, planned, stimulating and exciting range of activities, resources and experiences are provided within this provision. Using her strong knowledge of child development, the 'Birth to three matters' framework and aspects of the Foundation Stage the children are progressing well and are stimulated and challenged. Language development is supported through the constant discussions and open questioning

during the day. The children enjoy listening to stories and looking at books, they are encouraged to make their own choices from a local library and attend story reading sessions.

Textures are used extremely well to give children explorative experiences such as cooked and raw pasta and rice, feathers, clay, Gloop and paint. Through the paint the children are beginning to mark-make and enjoy chalking and painting outside. Threading small cereals onto laces and using tools encourage children's fine hand and eye coordination.

Their self-confidence and esteem are developed through activities which enable the children to use their imaginations, reasoning skills and express their own ideas. Many of these are creative activities that link to an investigative theme, such as the children having planted flowers, cooking and using imaginative play resources.

The children often go out into the local community talking about what they can see and looking at the changes in the seasons. Through practical everyday experiences the children learn about their place in the world and how it works, such as buying things from the local shops and talking about what they see and the people they meet.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Each child is valued and respected as an individual. Ongoing progress records and use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and Foundation Stage ensures that individually the children are provided with experiences that aid their personal development. Relationships between the children and childminder are extremely warm and secure. The children benefit from the childminder's direct support throughout their play and care needs, receiving very positive interaction at all times. She has an excellent awareness of inclusion for all children. They are learning to respect and understand a range of cultures through planned craft and activities.

Strategies show an understanding of encouraging positive outcomes and the childminder manages a wide range of behaviours to promote development and welfare, such as, using distraction to gain children's attention either through discussion or by getting out another activity that will engage the children. These strategies promote the wanted outcome and children are then praised for their positive behaviour. Achievements are praised by clapping first and then giving verbal praise. Children are requested positively to alter their behaviour by being given an alternative action for which they are praised.

The partnership with parents is very strong. A portfolio is read and discussed with parents ensuring they are fully aware of the policies and procedures governing the childminder's service and duty of care. Tracker diaries inform parents on a regular basis that observations and progress records are developed and followed. Planning is e-mailed to parents in advance and they can view a site with photographs of their children only ensuring they are fully informed of activities. Written documents evidence the exceptional importance regarding this relationship and demonstrate how issues of care and working consistently have produced benefits for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children are secure in a warm and caring environment. They use the well-organised space confidently and have effective adult support, which aids their abilities to initiate and extend

play and learning. The environment is made very welcoming for the children items of their craft work are displayed in the lounge area. Toys and resources are easily accessible, supported by special planned activities. Children are fostering good relationships with each other and the childminder, aiding their sense of security and belonging.

The childminder's strong knowledge of child development, her ongoing training and commitment to providing excellent care benefits the children greatly. Much of the documentation exceeds the requirements of the National Standards and is fully shared with parents. It is well organised and accessible and strongly promotes a consistent and smooth transition from home to childminder.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children whom attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two recommendations were raised to improve the standards of care for children. These were to record accurate times of children's attendance and to improve the supervision of children at nappy changing times. The childminder now records children's times of arrival and departure and ensures she has all of the children together when changing nappies or they are within sight supervision at all times. These procedures support children's overall safety.

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 accident records contain all the relevant information required.

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