

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY292326
Inspection date	13 December 2007
Inspector	Elisabeth Wright
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. She lives with her husband and two children aged 12 and 7 years. The family live in Grantham, Lincolnshire, within easy walking distance of the town centre and local amenities. All areas of the home can be used for childminding although this mainly takes part on the ground floor and the second floor bedroom. Toilet facilities are available on the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have two cats and a hamster.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 5 children at any one time and is currently minding 6 children aged under 5 years and 9 children over 5 years on a part-time basis. She uses her vehicle to transport children to and from school and attends the local parent and toddler group and childminding support group. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children benefit from being cared for in a warm and welcoming family home. The childminder applies good hygiene routines to ensure that their environment is healthy and takes active measures to encourage the children to learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. For example, she encourages the children to wash and dry their hands before eating, after using the toilet and after touching pets. She explains to them why they need to do so in a way that is appropriate for their age. Children's welfare is promoted because the childminder has suitable procedures in place for administering medication and for dealing with accidents and illness which ensure that the children are well cared for. They receive appropriate treatment in an emergency because the childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and has written consent for emergency medical treatment for each child. Although the garden cannot be used for a short period because of building work she ensures that the children have opportunities to benefit from playing in the fresh air and developing large muscle control daily by going for walks and playing in the park on the equipment there.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. Adequate drinks are provided throughout the day, therefore the children do not become thirsty or dehydrated. Some children bring packed lunches and the childminder provides for others by arrangement with the parents. She ensures that all snacks and meals which she provides are healthy and nutritious. Children learn about healthy foods through growing beans and tomatoes and through cooking activities which encourage them to try new tastes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel comfortable in the childminder's home because they are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. There is a range of toys and equipment which are suitable to meet the needs of the children and enable them to develop well. The space is arranged so that they can play, eat and rest comfortably. They are able to select some toys for themselves because they are made accessible and displayed at their level which encourages their independence.

Generally the children's safety is promoted because the house and garden are made secure and robust measures are taken to identify and reduce risks. For example, there are adequate smoke alarms on the premises on all levels and the childminder has an evacuation procedure which is practised by the children. Toys and equipment are checked regularly for cleanliness and repair so that the children are not harmed. Cleaning fluids are kept in a locked cupboard and cannot be accessed by the children. However, although knives are kept in a drawer the children would not generally need to use, they potentially could be accessed by the children which compromises their safety.

The children are protected because the childminder has a good understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection. For example, she is aware of the indicators of abuse and the procedures for reporting any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's home, they are relaxed and comfortable and demonstrate a good sense of belonging. They play enthusiastically with a range of toys and activities which promote learning through their experiences. They gain independence and self-confidence because they are allowed to make choices about what they do and what they play with. The childminder is aware of their individual interests and ensures that these are acted upon, consequently the children feel valued and motivated in their play and learning.

Children's language development is good because the childminder interacts well with them and they have formed good relationships. She recognises the importance of communication skills and values the children's responses. Therefore they are good speakers and listeners.

The childminder uses 'Birth to three matters' and High Scope guidelines to inform her planning and assessment. She has recently started portfolios for each child containing photographs, observations and examples of the child's work to enable her to construct a clear idea of their achievements and needs. This enables her to provide and adapt activities that are pertinent to their age and stage of development. Therefore they progress successfully across all areas.

The childminder takes the children on a variety of outings in the local area, for example, the park, library, toddler group and childminder's group. This provides them with opportunities to explore new activities and make relationships with children outside of the setting, thereby increasing their social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are made welcome in the childminder's home because she values them all as individuals. She demonstrates a good knowledge of their individual needs and interests their self-esteem is enhanced. They benefit from the childminder's understanding of their need to know about the wider world. She is developing a range of toys and activities that reflect diverse cultures so that they learn to approach difference positively. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are welcome in her home because she has a positive attitude towards the inclusion of all children regardless of their ability. The childminder implements training she has undertaken to enable her to develop an inclusive environment and has experience of caring for children with additional needs.

Children benefit from the childminder's good relationships with their parents. She is proactive in gathering information about children's individual preferences and needs at registration which she fully respects. Consequently parents and children are able to feel relaxed and confident in the childminder's home.

The childminder manages the children's behaviour well. She gives them clear directions about what is expected of them and uses praise to acknowledge their positive responses. Therefore the children learn about right and wrong and develop respect for themselves and others.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder uses her experience of looking after children to create an environment which is child-centred and in line with current practice. The children are therefore secure, safe and relaxed in her home. Consequently they are confident to initiate play ideas and become highly involved in their activities. She organises space, resources and routines with the individual needs of the children in mind, which promotes their ongoing development and learning.

Policies and documents are well-constructed and provide a sound framework for care of the children. Records are kept appropriately with regard to confidentiality and are generally well-maintained. The childminder is committed to improvement and implements the training courses she attends to the benefit of the children in her care. Overall, the children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to two recommendations relating to care. She agreed to obtain written permission from parents to transport children in a vehicle and to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. Good progress has been made. Children's welfare is promoted because the childminder has ensured that all required consents are obtained.

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 that knives are stored where they cannot be accessed by the 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