

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	153248
Inspection date	28 November 2007
Inspector	Lesley Gadd
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 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged seven and 13 years in a village on the Norfolk/ Cambridgeshire border. Most of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding up to three children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. She does not provide overnight care. The family have a scottish highland terrier dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well promoted. Good organisation around routine cleaning tasks, which are completed prior to children arriving, ensures that high standards of hygiene are consistently maintained to protect all children in her care. Children wash their hands without prompting

before eating and they know why it is important to attend to personal hygiene to reduce the risk of infection.

Effective strategies are in place and children are well taken care of if they have an accident or become ill. The childminder maintains an accessible first aid kit and holds a current first aid certificate. Children's good health is further supported as the childminder has the necessary written parental consents to administer medication and seek emergency medical treatment if needed.

Children's growth is actively promoted through the availability of nutritious meals. The childminder provides a diet that includes regular water, juice, milk, fresh vegetables and fruit to ensure all children develop good healthy eating habits from an early age. She caters for children with specific dietary needs well and introduces all children to good home cooked food. Children discuss healthy foods for the body and are aware of food origins as they discuss where sausages are produced.

Children are developing a positive attitude to exercise. They make full use of the childminder's inviting garden to run freely, stretch their bodies and develop their large muscle tone. Children enjoy climbing, swinging, sliding and benefit from the rich range of age-appropriate equipment outside. Children enjoy indoor exercise games and work out how to operate the computer eye toy to take part in physical challenges. Children demonstrate good hand and eye co-ordination. They use cutlery with competence when eating their dinner and operate the computer mouse with confidence.

Children's sense of well-being is supported. Older children can relax after school by playing games, assembling jigsaws and sitting in comfort on the welcoming, soft furnishings.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is given suitable consideration in most areas. The childminder closely supervises them at all times and the indoor premises are checked daily to remove potential hazards and minimise the risk of accidents for the children. Kitchen areas are gated to prevent access to dangerous products, relevant insurance is in place and entrances to the premises are secure to prevent children escaping or stranger danger. A daily register is completed and the childminder knows what to do in the event of an emergency evacuation. Before outings take place the childminder obtains parents' permission and children are strapped into appropriate safety restraints when travelling in the car.

Children learn how to maintain this safe environment through discussion with the childminder and this helps them to prepare for future independence. They demonstrate their understanding as they know how important it is to use seat belts when travelling in the car and what to do in the event of a fire.

Children have safe access to indoor toys and play resources that are regularly checked to ensure there are no broken parts that could harm them. The childminder has a safety net around the trampoline in her garden however there is no formal risk assessment around use of this high risk equipment. As a result children and parents are not fully clear about the conditions of use for the trampoline and children's welfare is not robustly assured. Children are warmly welcomed by the childminder and show a strong sense of belonging. They know where to hang their coats,

are fully familiar with the layout of the home and where to self-select toys for play demonstrating their independence.

Children's welfare and protection is given some consideration. Children are not left unattended, members of the household are suitably vetted and the childminder has an understanding about possible signs of child abuse. However the childminder does not hold a copy of 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused' and does not know whom to contact locally if she is concerned about a child. This could lead to an unnecessary delay if a child is in need of immediate support and protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a warm relationship with the childminder and are happy in her care. They are settled and the childminder is attentive to ensure they feel supported. The childminder and children sit together looking for bits of a puzzle to complete a picture, sharing a joke about the pieces all looking the same. Children are communicating and are encouraged by the childminder to engage in conversation about a variety of subjects. Children talk about their day, favourite food and what they like to play with after school.

Children experience a good range of activities to promote their all round development. They are quick to demonstrate their increasing skills with technology. Children pretend to drive a rally car with skill during a computer game, manoeuvring the hand set with confidence. On other occasions children enjoy a diverse range of art activities to stimulate their creativity. They make their own play dough and paint, stick and glue with different craft materials. Children enjoy designing and building with different construction resources available and make full use of the outside garden to explore the seasons. This promotes and develops their knowledge about the environment. Children play well together and show care and consideration for others. Older children help younger peers to locate pieces of a puzzle so they can begin to create a large picture and guide them when playing games on the computer.

Children play an active part in steering the course of their day. Whilst some activities are planned in advance to ensure children have varied experiences, the childminder follows their particular interests on a day to day basis depending on what they want to do after school. Children's favourite activities are on offer all the time such as puzzles, computer games and the outdoor climbing equipment. Children who are initially less self-assured quickly develop confidence in the childminder's care and take part in the full range of activities. Parents are kept well informed about activities on a daily basis as the childminder makes time to talk with them at the end of the day.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are made welcome in this childminder's home and take part in the full range of activities. Younger children can take part in more complex computer games with older friends and children less sure about bouncing on the trampoline are gently encouraged by the childminder, gaining confidence and taking part in this fun activity. The childminder gets down to the children's level physically when talking with them and listens ensuring children feel valued. The childminder has a clear understanding about children's development stages and is quick to raise any concerns with parents about potential learning difficulties and/or disabilities to ensure children's needs are met.

Children are beginning to learn about others as the childminder promotes equality. They have opportunities to discuss differences between them and play with an increasing range of toys that reflect wider society. Children explore other cultures by talking about a range of religious festivals. In this way children are developing a positive understanding about diversity.

Children's behaviour is good. The childminder has clear boundaries and sets a positive example as she is polite towards the children. Children understand the difference between right and wrong through clear explanations and simple house rules which promote respect for others. This positive attitude is continually reinforced through daily routines and practices so that children make an active contribution to creating a warm and happy environment.

Partnerships with parents and carers are good. The childminder shares information and liaises with parents closely before the children start to attend to ensure individual needs are met. Written information is available for parents about the service on offer and detailed contracts set out expectations of care for both parties in most areas. The childminder is clear about how she would respond if a parent had a complaint and provides details of current regulatory authority contact numbers to parents if they have concerns about her service. In this way children's well-being is robustly supported.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare is supported as the childminder is well organised. Training in first aid has been updated and the childminder uses her experience, alongside information gained from websites and magazines about child care matters, to continue to improve the quality of the care for the children who attend and their families.

Children are comfortable and relaxed in the childminder's home as she has given good consideration to the organisation of space and resources. Children make use of an inviting garden, play hall and main lounge areas that are well equipped. They can eat in comfort, relax, enjoy creative activities and have quiet areas to undertake their homework if needed.

Children's care is enhanced by accessible written records. The childminder has developed policies, documents and records that support her good childcare practice and offer reassurance to parents about their children's welfare in most areas. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to assess current toys for positive images of disability and increase the range as necessary. The childminder has made good progress on addressing this point to further improve the children's care and development. Resources have been purchased that specifically show positive images of children with disabilities including books and fuzzy felt imaginary play boards.

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):

- improve children's safety when using the trampoline by completing a detailed risk assessment and ensuring children and parents are fully aware of the conditions for use of the trampoline
- obtain a copy of the booklet 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' and ensure details are held about whom to contact locally if there are concerns about a child.

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