

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY103096
Inspection date	06 March 2008
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 2001. She lives with her husband and two school-aged children on the outskirts of Grantham, Lincolnshire. All areas of the property are used for childminding, although this mainly takes place on the ground floor in the play room. Bathroom and sleeping facilities are on the first floor. There is a rear garden for outdoor play. The family do not keep any pets. The childminder lives within walking distance of local school. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and warm family home, because the childminder has robust practices and routines in place which maintain good standards of hygiene. They are beginning to learn the principles of a healthy lifestyle through well-thought-out routines, for example, after using the potty one child holds up his hands for cleaning gel which he rubs in enthusiastically. Arrangements are made to ensure that children have space and opportunity to sleep and rest if they need to, with their own fleece blankets to give them security and a

sense of belonging. Children are well-cared for in the case of an accident or medical emergency because the childminder has current first aid training and ensures that parental consent is in place for emergency medical treatment or advice. Children are protected from illness because she ensures that parents are aware that their child must not attend if they are infectious.

The childminder ensures that children benefit from the provision of healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. She is proactive in gaining information about their likes and dislikes and that any allergies or cultural preferences are respected, thus ensuring that the meals that she provides are appropriate for the children's needs. She stores packed lunches in the fridge for those children who bring their own lunch, so that the food is safe for them to eat. They learn about eating healthily through the provision of fruit for snacks and the discussions they have with her about healthy eating. Children sometimes go to the shops to choose their own fruit to encourage their interest and promote good eating habits.

Although the childminder cannot currently use her own garden, she ensures that the children have good access to outdoor play and the benefits of playing in fresh air. They visit local parks and play amenities locally and go for regular walks daily.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is made welcoming for children because space is organised to meet their individual needs, therefore they feel relaxed and at home. Toys and resources are made accessible, which promotes their independence, as they choose their own toys and play equipment and initiate their own play ideas.

Generally children's safety is promoted as the childminder has taken steps to minimise possible hazards, for example, she checks the house before the children arrive to make sure that nothing has been left around that could injure them and checks toys and equipment regularly to ensure they are safe to use. However, not all risks are identified, for example not all sockets are covered which potentially presents a hazard for children. Fire escape plans have been devised and practised with the children to ensure that they are kept safe in an emergency. These include teaching the children to drop to the floor to avoid smoke inhalation. Smoke alarms are fitted on both levels to help towards keeping the children safe. There is a fire blanket in the kitchen, however this is not fitted correctly and could not be accessed quickly in the event of a fire which potentially compromises the children's safety. Children are learning how to keep safe on the road as the childminder teaches them to hold hands and look for safe places to cross over. The children are not currently allowed access to the garden because it is not fully secure and there is a greenhouse with low-level glass that would compromise their safety. The childminder intends to secure this area in time for summer use.

Children are protected from harm because the childminder has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the correct procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children make good progress with the childminder because she has a good understanding of how children learn. She uses her knowledge of 'Birth to three matters' to inform her understanding of children's progress and make appropriate plans for activities to support their

individual development needs. Children's own interests are known and acknowledged, therefore ensuring that they remain interested and motivated in their play and are thereby able to learn. They are enthusiastic and focused in their play with the childminder, because she interacts well with them and engages their interest. They confidently explore their surroundings and make independent choices and decisions about what they would like to play with.

Children have fun and play enthusiastically with a wide range of toys and activities, which promote their learning well. One child shows great pleasure as he eagerly chooses jigsaw puzzles and listens to the childminder as she gently suggests that he can turn the pieces around. She allows him time and space so that his confidence and self-esteem is enhanced. Children are developing their imagination and creativity as they engage in a wide range of art and craft activities.

The childminder widens the range of toys and activities the children have access to by taking them on regular visits to the Sure Start Centre, where children can socialise with others of their age whilst learning new skills and experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are known to the childminder because she is proactive in discussing all aspects of their care with their parents at the time of registration. She finds out about their likes and dislikes, dietary needs and parental preferences, so that the children can enjoy consistency of care. She ensures that children for whom English is not their home culture or language are supported well, finding out about their needs and lifestyle. For example, she uses the internet with children so that they can access sites that give information and pictures about their own culture and where they can hear their home language spoken and sung.

Children behave well because the childminder has an effective range of methods for encouraging good behaviour, dependent on the age and understanding of each child. Therefore children are able to feel secure, confident, and relaxed in her care, which actively promotes good behaviour. Children are developing a positive self-image of themselves as the childminder offers praise and encouragement repeatedly in their daily activities. They also develop good self-esteem and confidence as they make choices and decisions about their play.

Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are welcome in the childminder's home as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare. She demonstrates a good understanding of how and where she would gain information to support their care, learning and development, respecting the parent's knowledge of their own children as of primary importance.

Children's welfare and development is promoted because the childminder places a strong emphasis on building good relationships with parents so that she carries out their wishes when providing good care for their children. She ensures parents are kept well informed about their child's daily activities she gives them verbal feedback and also completes a daily diary which she gives to parents at the end of each day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder's home is well-organised to maximise children's care, play and learning opportunities. They have their own room where they can play with the different activities

provided and have good access to toys and resources, which enhances their sense of belonging and develops independence. Their self-esteem is enhanced because they are valued and cared for as individuals.

Records and documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being are in place and available for inspection. They are kept securely and with due regard to maintaining confidentiality. This assists the childminder in the smooth and efficient running of her service. The certificate of registration is on display enabling parents to be clear about the childminder's conditions. Children's times of arrival and departure are recorded meaning that there is an accurate record of attendance should it be needed. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that the hazards on the premises were minimised with reference to the security of the rear garden and access to low-level glass in the rear garden. The childminder is currently not allowing children access to the garden, thus ensuring that they are kept safe and has made alternative arrangements for outdoor play. A condition is therefore imposed that the garden must not be used for childminding purposes.

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 the fire blanket is correctly fitted in the kitchen
- ensure that electrical sockets are made safe.

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