

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY351973
Inspection date	01 August 2008
Inspector	Gill Ogden
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 has been registered since August 2007. She lives with her husband and two children aged four and fifteen months in Dunholme, Lincolnshire. Shops, parks, a pre-school and schools are within walking distance. All areas of the childminder's home are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time and currently looks after two on a part-time basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and runs the local childminding group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is given high priority. Good systems are in place to minimise opportunities for cross-infection. For example, the home is kept very clean and children have their own individual face cloths and towels which are kept on hooks labelled with their names. Parents are clearly informed about keeping children at home if they have contagious illnesses.

Children get plenty of fresh air and exercise. They can move freely between the house and the garden and enjoy lots of time playing there in all weathers with equipment such as scooters. They regularly go for walks to the park where they play on the climbing frame and swings which helps them to develop strong bodies. Children rest comfortably on sofas when they wish and a travel cot is provided for babies to sleep safely.

Children eat well because the childminder knows the importance of a healthy diet. Any special dietary needs are carefully noted. Children enjoy light meals such as beans on toast, main meals such as chicken casserole and snacks of fresh and dried fruit. A weekly menu is displayed for parents to see. A choice of drinks, including water, is always available and children have their own drinks bottles.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are looked after in a safe, secure and suitable premises. The front door is always kept locked and the garden is secure so no one can get in at the rear of the property. The home is welcoming to children and their families with posters and photographs displayed. A selection of toys are set out each day ready for children's arrival. Thorough risk assessments of the home are carried out and checks on safety equipment such as smoke alarms are done regularly. Other safety equipment such as socket covers and stair gates are in place to help prevent accidents. Children gradually learn to keep themselves safe as a result of, for example, practising evacuating the house quickly and following road safety procedures when they are out and about. All the toys and play equipment are in good condition and suitable for children to use.

Children are further safeguarded because the childminder has a solid understanding of her child protection responsibilities and these are clearly conveyed to parents. However, she has not fully thought through what she would do if an allegation was made against her. This could potentially compromise children's overall safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled with the childminder and her family. Minded children and the childminder's own children play together harmoniously. For example, they enjoy playing with cars on a road mat and the childminder involves herself with their play prompting them to think about how things such as a toy mechanical crane might work. The children are thrilled when they manage to do it. Outdoors the children use their imaginations creating a café using role play materials and the play house.

Children enjoy a range of activities and experiences that support their emotional, physical, intellectual and social development such as art and craft, cooking, construction, sand and water play, music, puzzles and books. The childminder broadly plans to a theme such as 'healthy eating' with activities that include children crating collages of their favourite foods, visiting the supermarket to buy fruit and vegetables and going to the library to find books about food. The childminder is beginning to record children's achievements so that she can plan for their next steps according to their interests.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are made welcome in the childminder's home. Useful information is gathered from parents to ensure children's individual needs are met. Children's own cultural backgrounds are reinforced through, for example, celebrating festivals such as Easter and Mother's day. They are introduced to the wider world through activities relating to festivals such as Rosh Hashanah and American Independence Day and having appropriate resources available to them as part of their everyday play. Children behave well because the childminder acts as a good role model for them. She prompts them about using good manners, for example, saying 'thank you' for their snack. Children are kept well-occupied and praised for good behaviour such as sitting well at the table so they are less likely to behave badly.

There is an effective working relationship with parents which promotes children's good continuity of care. Parents receive some very useful written information about the service offered so they are fully clear about what to expect. The childminder takes lots of photographs of their children involved in activities, along with regular verbal information sharing, parents are kept well-informed about their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has lots of experience in caring for children because she qualified in child care several years ago and has always worked in the field. She has completed the required training for childminding and has attended further training events since she registered to ensure she is ready to work according to the incoming legislation. Future training needs have been identified by the childminder in order to improve her practice. Good use is made of the available space to ensure children are cared for well. They move freely between the lounge and garden via patio doors and have meals and snacks at the kitchen table. Because the childminder usually only cares for one child at a time they are assured of good attention.

All the necessary records are in place and kept well. Confidential information is stored securely. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- consider the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against self.

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