



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY249041
Inspection date	27 September 2005
Inspector	Melanie Arnold

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and two children aged sixteen months and three years in a village South of Lincoln. The whole house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child full time and two children after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children, she also takes children on outings to the park to feed the ducks, and for walks. The childminder

attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a rabbit and a tank of fish.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy playing outside in the fresh air where they access a good range of resources to effectively promote their physical skills. For example, bouncing on the trampoline or playing on the slide. They also go on regular trips to the park where they have the freedom to run around and play on the large scale equipment ensuring their well-being and physical skills are effectively promoted. Babies enjoy standing up to play with activity tables and are gently encouraged by the childminder to crawl around after their toys, helping to develop their leg muscles.

The childminder implements her effective health and safety policy well as she encourages good health and hygiene routines with the children. This helps to prevent cross infection and maintain children's welfare. Children sleep according to their individual needs and can rest peacefully without distraction. The childminder encourages healthy eating through the provision of nutritious snacks and she provides children with regular drinks to meet their needs. Children's dietary requirements, likes and dislikes are met appropriately because parents provide all meals for their children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and well protected within the childminder's care due to her effectively identifying potential risks and taking positive steps to minimise these. Space is used well creating a safe environment in which children can play. Their safety is further ensured because the home and garden are kept fully secure. Children access a wide range of good quality toys, which are well maintained.

Children remain safe on outings because of the effective procedures the childminder implements. Their knowledge on how to keep themselves safe from harm is well promoted by the childminder. For example, developing children's understanding of road safety issues when walking to and from school. Emergency evacuation procedures are also practiced with the children to ensure they are aware what to do in the event of an emergency. Children's welfare is maintained effectively at all times because the childminder has a very good understanding of child protection issues. A thorough policy is in place, which helps to ensure parents are aware of the childminder's responsibilities to protect children within her care and the steps she will take in the event of any concerns being raised.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder, where they are provided with good opportunities to learn through play. Older children like completing a wide range of activities, which helps to promote their physical, social, imaginative and creative development. For example, sewing, painting, reading, baking, playing in the garden and going on outings to the park. All children thoroughly enjoy playing in the brightly decorated playroom, where they access a wide range of toys and resources to meet their needs. Children are relaxed and respond well to the childminder as she engages in play with them. Babies skills are promoted well as the childminder provides them with varied activities to aid their development. She listens and responds to their attempts at communication helping to develop their early language skills. She also encourages them to crawl after toys helping to develop their physical skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met well because the childminder implements an effective procedure to ensure relevant information is obtained from parents. This enables her to provide appropriate care from the outset. Children with special needs are provided with appropriate support to ensure they have equal opportunities to participate in all activities. Children benefit from an effective partnership with parents. The childminder works well with parents and provides them with good information on her services through informative policies. She regularly asks parents for feedback on the service she provides to ensure she is maintaining a good standard of care for all children. Parents are kept fully informed of their child's daily activities through the use of verbal feedback and a daily diary for younger children. The childminder also laminates children's pictures and pieces of work enabling parents to keep and cherish them.

Children's self-esteem and confidence is promoted well because the childminder effectively uses praise and encouragement to promote their good behaviour. The childminder uses facial expression and changes the tone in her voice to ensure babies are aware of when they have done something well. The childminder is aware of appropriate strategies to use to manage any unwanted behaviour in line with the child's age and level of understanding. Children are beginning to understand right from wrong as the childminder discusses their actions with them.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are settled and relaxed in the childminder's care. Their needs are effectively met because space and resources are well organised, with a separate playroom containing a wide range of resources being made available to them. This helps to

create a warm and welcoming environment for children. Children's welfare, care, development and learning are effectively promoted because informative policies have been put in place by the childminder. Records are also stored confidentially and completed appropriately, helping to ensure children's well-being, with the exception of a parental consent form, which has yet to be put in place. Children benefit greatly because the childminder has formed a good partnership with parents enabling her to effectively cater for children's needs. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to establish a written agreement with parents setting out the expectations of both parties and to ensure children had access to an appropriate range of activities and resources reflecting diversity.

The childminder ensures parents are kept fully informed of her services through an informative portfolio and a contract is in place which details the business arrangements set out between both parties. This contributes to the effective organisation of the setting. Children have access to an appropriate range of resources reflecting diversity and their understanding of the wider world is satisfactorily promoted through discussion and the provision of some activities.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 written parental consent is in place concerning obtaining emergency medical advice or treatment.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the

procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk