



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY221032
Inspection date	03 June 2005
Inspector	Hazel Taylor

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 2002. She lives with her husband and their two children, aged five and eight years, on the outskirts of the small town of Caistor. There are shops, play park, library, pre-school and toddler group within walking distance.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and toilet facilities are provided on this level. The conservatory and kitchen-diner are used for more active play and the lounge for quiet activities. The first floor is used for young children to sleep during the day. There is a fully enclosed and secure garden to the rear of the property for

outside play.

The family pets include two guinea pigs and fish.

The childminder is a member of the national Childminding Association. She regularly attends and acts as vacancy co-ordinator for the local childminding group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Daily outdoor play in the garden and visits to the park help them enjoy the benefits of physical activity. The children develop increasing control of their bodies and improve their physical skills as they play on wheeled toys, slide, climb on large equipment and run about on the grass playing ball games. They become increasingly aware of the way in which activity affects their bodies and know when they need a drink or a rest. Older children are aware of the needs of the younger children and that their activities may be limited by their size and ability and all children benefit from regular sleep and quiet time when they need it. The childminder develops meaningful relationships with the children which fosters their emotional well being and ensures that they feel safe and secure. Babies are made to feel special by the support of the childminder who gives constant praise and cuddles when they are trying to learn to crawl and reach for toys.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they are learning good practice and gaining independence in their personal care through familiar hygiene routines such as hand washing after using the toilet, handling pets and before eating. They become aware of the importance of cleanliness and that germs can be spread, for example as they wait for the water in the hand washing bowl to be changed for each child.

Children's awareness of healthy eating and positive food choices are well promoted by discussion with the childminder who takes account of the wishes of parents to provide nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs. Older children are able to access their drinks when they are thirsty and babies are offered drinks at regular intervals.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and well protected in a spacious, child-orientated environment where the childminder makes sure that hazards are kept to a minimum but still ensures that children can take appropriate risks, such as using scissors and climbing steps. Children begin to take responsibility for themselves and are encouraged to make safe decisions about their play and learning as they choose from the good quality range of toys and play materials both indoors and outdoors. Children access

resources easily and can move around safely and confidently to use them imaginatively.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted by the knowledgeable practice of the childminder, underpinned by the good quality and accuracy of her supporting documentation. She hones her vigilance of children's safety by keeping up to date with current guidance and undertaking further training to maintain her First Aid qualification, fire safety awareness and secure understanding of the local area child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and explore their surroundings with enthusiasm, confidence and growing independence. They relate well to each other and socialise with other children through regular attendance at a variety of local children's groups. Children are becoming good communicators, they chat confidently between themselves, and the childminder makes good use of conversations to extend children's thinking and play. Children access a good variety of appropriately challenging activities that suit their interests and which enable them to develop their learning by exploring and investigating at their own level and pace.

Children use their imagination well in activities which develop their creativity such as drawing, painting, play-dough, listening and moving to music and in role play situations. They are learning new vocabulary and counting as they enjoy their play and make good links in their learning due to the childminders skill in extending the activities and developing everyday situations. Children develop an increasing awareness of their physical abilities by daily play in the garden, walks and use of local parks which also promotes their awareness of the world around them.

The childminder is aware of the Birth to Three Matters Framework and uses past knowledge and experience to adapt activities to promote the younger children's learning. All children spend their time purposefully. Children have good opportunities to initiate their own activities which promotes their awareness of positive choices, emotional well being and confidence in themselves as learners. The childminder shares information well with parents, both verbally and by use of daily diaries to record children's progress and achievements.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the wider world and develop positive attitudes to diversity and their understanding of others through the range of activities, books and toys made available to them. They have the opportunity to meet different individuals at children's groups and as they explore the local environment on trips out to the park and library. Discussions with the children about new experiences and people develops their understanding of similarities and differences and encourages them to treat each

other with respect. All children are welcome in the setting and the childminder promotes inclusion by ensuring that play materials are accessible to all and by adapting activities so that all children, including those with special needs, can participate, thus ensuring that children feel valued as individuals and that their self-esteem is increased by promoting achievement. The childminder develops affectionate and warm relationships with children which ensures that they feel a sense of belonging.

Children are developing their awareness of their own needs as they make meaningful choices and decisions in their play and gain independence in their personal care. They are beginning to show care and concern for others as they willingly share, take turns and help each other in their play together. Children behave well and learn to respect each other supported by the childminder's praise and encouragement which also develops their self-esteem and confidence. They are made aware of sensible house rules so that they can begin to effectively regulate their own behaviour and learn right from wrong. Children's changing needs are met well as the childminder works closely with parents and carers, by sharing information regarding children's care and progress, so that all children feel reassured and thrive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel secure and at ease in a well organised home where they are cared for with a good level of adult support. This means that they are confident to explore the child friendly environment as they play and learn. The childminder uses a comprehensive range of policies, procedures, records and daily diaries on which she bases her practice, and which ensure children's health, safety, enjoyment and achievement are well promoted. The children's care experience is enhanced by the childminder's commitment to developing her practice and skills by attending recent training courses and personal research. Children's needs are regularly discussed with parents to ensure there is continuity and consistency of care further enhancing children's sense of security. The childminder confirms that she is fulfilling the parents' wishes by evaluating her practice, sharing information with parents and by inviting parental feedback regarding the service she offers. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved the opportunities for sharing information with new parents and she has now developed a portfolio for them which includes information about her provision and the way in which she works. Children benefit from the enhanced partnership between the childminder and their parents, and have their needs more closely met.

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):

- consolidate the planning of activities which enables children to progress in their development, for example by using the Birth to Three Framework.

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