



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY103096
Inspection date	11 January 2006
Inspector	Janice Broddle

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 5 and 2 years. The family live in Grantham, within walking distance of all local amenities. All areas of the property are used for childminding, although this mainly takes place on the ground floor with sleeping facilities within this area. Toilet facilities are on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family do not have pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum for 4 children at any one time and is currently minding 1 child aged under 5 years for 4 days a week. The

childminder does not have use of a vehicle. 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 environment. They are protected from the risk of spreading infection through the childminder's clear policy regarding sick children along with her good practices. For example, children have their own flannels for washing after lunch and wet wipes are on hand for children to use as required. There are mainly good systems in place to deal with accidents and emergencies, however, the childminder does not have written parental consent for emergency medical advice or treatment which could compromise children's health. Young children are beginning to learn about good basic hygiene through daily routines such as washing their hands after using the toilet, before meals and after playing out in the garden, and being able to access tissues to wipe their noses.

Children are learning about the importance of a healthy diet. The childminder encourages them to eat a varied and nutritious range of foods, which she provides through home cooked meals and snacks. Meals are prepared using fresh ingredients and less healthy foods are limited. The childminder respects parent's wishes regarding meals, ensuring that she meets children's individual needs.

Daily walks in the local community, along with regular access to the wide range of garden equipment including balls, bicycles and slides, provide good opportunities for fresh air and physical exercise. Children further develop their physical skills and coordination through regular visits to the local park and indoor play area where they run, climb and balance on the large equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and well maintained environment. The childminder has a good awareness of safety issues and has identified and minimised potential hazards. For example, by using a stair gate to prevent access to the stairs, and by fixing doorstoppers to doors to prevent trapped fingers. This enables children to freely and safely move around their environment. There are comprehensive procedures in place in the event of an emergency and parents are aware of these.

Children have access to a wide range of play equipment that is developmentally appropriate and of good quality. Toys are clean and safe, the childminder monitors this as she engages with children in their play and has good systems in place to check them for possible risk. Children begin to learn how to contribute to their own safety through daily routines and discussion with the childminder. For example, they learn about road safety as they walk in the local community and help to tidy their toys away to prevent trips and falls.

Children are protected from harm because the childminder understands her responsibilities with regard to child protection. She is aware of current government guidance which is kept readily to hand for reference if needed. She is clear who she must share any concerns with.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's home. The childminder has good relationships with the children and creates a warm and friendly atmosphere which encourages their personal confidence. They engage with her in play and confidently express their needs and wishes. Children gain in independence as they freely explore their environment and develop their self-esteem as they make choices from familiar toys they enjoy.

The childminder is beginning to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework. She has devised some basic planning of activities, and children enjoy a broad and varied range where they learn through play. They particularly enjoy playing with Duplo and their coordination and imagination is developing well as they design and construct with a variety of shaped bricks. Children's language skills are developing well. A wide selection of easily accessible, good quality books supports this and encourages their enjoyment of books. Children access these frequently and enjoy sharing them with the childminder and listening to stories. They also enjoy music; they request and sing along, dance and do the actions to favourite songs. Regular visits to local parks and indoor play areas provide opportunities for children to practise their developing social skills.

The childminder has a good understanding of children's individual needs. She plans daily routines around these, which ensures that children are cared for in line with routines at home. Daily plans are flexible and adapted to meet the changing needs of children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are learning about their local community through regular visits to the parks, shops and local school. The childminder has a range of books and play materials that help to promote children's awareness of diversity and understanding of others' differences. Children feel valued and respected as individuals and the childminder has good systems in place to ensure that children with special needs are fully included in her provision.

Children's behaviour is very good. The childminder's use of praise encourages positive behaviour and contributes to children's self-esteem. Children are learning right from wrong through her gentle and consistent reinforcement of clear boundaries. Through her good levels of support and patient, appropriate explanations, young children begin to learn to share and take turns.

The childminder exchanges ongoing detailed information with parents and keeps them informed about children's daily care, activities and developmental progress. Her good relationship with parents ensures consistency and continuity of care for the children who consequently feel secure and happy in her care. She has a range of written information for parents that informs them of her practices, however, she has not yet implemented procedures for investigating complaints in line with new regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her space and resources well which enables children to comfortably eat, rest and explore their play materials. They are relaxed and content in their environment and confidently and independently move around. The childminder organises daily activities around children's individual routines and they sleep, eat and rest as they need. The range of activities provided ensures that children have opportunities to engage in a wide variety of stimulating experiences both inside and outside of the home.

The childminder has all required records and documentation in place. She has established clear, written agreements with parents regarding the arrangements for children's daily care, which ensures continuity. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, the childminder agreed to a number of recommendations. These were: to make sure that low level glass door panels are safe; to ensure that systems are in place to manage emergency situations when outside of the home; to provide a first aid box; to develop written information about the childminding service for parents; and to ensure familiarity with new government guidance with regards to child protection.

The childminder states that she has sought advice regarding the glass panels in the internal doors and is satisfied that these are safety glass. She has also devised comprehensive systems to ensure that emergencies can be dealt with effectively and has a copy of appropriate government guidance with regards to child protection, therefore promoting children's safety and welfare. She now also has appropriately stocked first aid boxes for use inside and outside of the home which contributes to maintaining children's good health. She has also devised a range of written policies which are available to parents. This helps to promote effective partnerships with parents and continuity of care for children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 Ofsted has received one complaint relating to Standard 2: Organisation. Ofsted investigated this concern by carrying out an unannounced visit

on 22/07/2004. As a result, the Provider agreed to carry out 2 actions to ensure that the provision met the National Standards. The actions were: to ensure that child adult ratios are maintained and to ensure that a daily record of the names of the children looked after and the hours of attendance are kept up to date. The childminder has now carried out all of the actions and remains qualified for registration.

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):

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- develop systems in light of the new regulations regarding complaints, to ensure that these are fully complied with.

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