

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	209288
Inspection date	16 October 2007
Inspector	Lesley Barrett
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 registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and adult son in a small town in Lincolnshire. Children are cared for mostly on the ground floor with access to the upstairs for sleeping purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding six children under five years and seven children over five years. All children attend on a part-time basis. Care is also provided for children over eight years.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local childminding group. She walks to local school and pre-schools to take and collect children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well promoted. Effective hygiene procedures are in place to protect them from cross-contamination. For example, the childminder washes her hands after changing

nappies and children wash their hands after using the toilet or are encouraged to use wet wipes. Children's awareness of preventing the spread of germs is effectively promoted as the childminder talks to them about making sure 'Gertie germs' disappear. This encourages them to be responsible for the promotion of their own good health. The childminder has appropriate procedures in place for the administration of medication and recording of accidents and ensures that parents are made aware of when their child has sustained an injury. Some children whom she cares for also attend nursery. If the childminder has had to sign the accident book upon collecting them, a recording of this is made in the children's daily diary, thus ensuring that parents are kept informed.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities. They benefit from fresh air and exercise on their daily walks to the school. Children have regular opportunities to visit the local park which promotes a healthy lifestyle, as they are able to use the static equipment to develop their physical skills, such as climbing. They also enjoy trips to feed the ducks and are able to make use of large physical equipment at toddler groups. Further variety of physical play activities are provided within the childminder's own home. Children are able to use a range of resources such as bats, balls, skittles and ride on toys within the childminder's garden. During fine weather children are able to have free access to the outdoor play area, allowing them to make choices about where they play.

Parents provide packed lunches for the children. The childminder works closely with them to ensure that children's dietary needs are met and the inclusion of children who have specific dietary requirements. This enables all children to feel included during their time with the childminder. A cooked meal is provided by the childminder at the end of the day. Children's health is promoted as they are provided with a good range of healthy meals. These include chicken, sausage casserole and fish fingers, all are served with fresh vegetables.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean, warm and safe home where risks are identified and minimised allowing them to play safely. For example, they are well protected from risks as the childminder has a fire guard in place which is securely attached and foam door stoppers prevent children's fingers from becoming trapped. Children are becoming familiar with the emergency evacuation procedures and what to do in an emergency as the childminder practises these with them. Children are learning about the importance of keeping themselves and others safe as the childminder clearly explains why they should not climb on top of each other and why they should sit still when eating. Her calm explanations help children learn about the consequences of their actions.

The home is well organised so that the childminder can monitor children in all areas and whilst they are using the resources. Children can make their own selection from a suitable range of easily accessible toys and play materials which promote confidence and decision making. All toys and equipment are checked regularly to ensure that they are in good condition and that children are protected from potential hazards.

Children's welfare is effectively safeguarded. For example, the childminder shares a clear policy with parents which outlines her duties regarding the protection of children in her care. The childminder has a reliable knowledge of child protection issues, which are in line with local procedures. This means that children are protected and kept safe from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely confident in the childminder's care and enjoy a positive relationship with her. She is very sensitive to their needs, offering lots of praise and encouragement and this contributes to their sense of belonging, giving them confidence and security to explore the toys and activities. Children benefit from an excellent range of stimulating activities and experiences inside and outside the home. For example, they attend local toddler groups, meet with other childminders and visit places of interest within the local community.

Children are learning to be skilful communicators as the childminder enthusiastically talks to them as she supports their play. For example, she talks to them about what they have been doing during the morning and things they have seen on their walk to school. Children respond eagerly as the childminder listens carefully, allowing them time to share their news and she responds purposefully showing that she is genuinely interested in what they are saying. Their early mathematical skills are being developed as the childminder allows them to help with practical tasks, such as preparing a baby's bottle. They help the childminder to count the spoonfuls of formula needed. Children's creativity is successfully developed as the childminder provides them with an extensive range of activities, such as marble painting or digging in soil and bark for dinosaurs. The childminder encourages babies to develop their skills as she purposefully interacts with them. They are encouraged to explore and discover through an excellent range of toys and very good interaction from the childminder. All children, particularly babies, are cared for in line with their routines from home. This enables them to gain confidence, a sense of belonging and for them to flourish in an environment which meets their individual needs.

Older children who have been at school all day are provided with a homely environment when they arrive at the childminder's home. They are able to relax and play freely. For example, they play games, do art and craft or simply relax on the sofa. Consistent boundaries help them to feel welcomed and secure, which in turn enhances their sense of belonging and allows them to feel highly valued.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are warmly welcomed in to the childminder's home and this enables them to feel a strong sense of belonging and self-worth. The childminder has a good understanding of inclusion and has systems in place to allow her to care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Children have their needs well met as the childminder works closely with parents and uses appropriate records to ensure this. There are some resources which promote equality of opportunity, however on occasions children are unable to freely access a varied range of resources which promote both genders. This does not fully support children's play and development.

The childminder uses positive strategies such as praise and age-appropriate explanations to encourage good behaviour. The children understand what is expected of them as the childminder is consistent in her approach and where possible ignores poor behaviour to prevent negative messages. Children are encouraged to respect each other as the childminder talks to them about the consequences of their actions. She is a good role model for children as she listens to them, encourages good manners and gives consistent praise and encouragement to help promote their self-esteem.

Partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents give positive feedback about the quality of care provided. A daily diary ensures that parents receive detailed information about their child's day so that they can feel included within the child's experiences. The childminder produces a good range of documentation which supports children's care and ensures that parents are kept informed about the quality of care offered.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder's knowledge and understanding of quality childcare is good. She shows commitment to updating her knowledge of current childcare practices through attending a varied range of courses to support the care she offers. Well-established routines and sensitive, caring support ensures that children are confident and settled in the childminder's home. Effective organisation of the premises maximises play space for children and a good balance of activities inside and outside the home are offered.

Children's care, learning and welfare is successfully fostered by the use of reliable policies and procedures which are well organised and shared with parents. All of the required documentation is in place and supports the successful operation of the childminder's business. This promotes positive outcomes for children. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection the childminder was required to update her knowledge of child protection. This has been successfully addressed. The childminder has attended training to update her knowledge and has the relevant guidance from the local authority regarding the correct procedures to follow should she have any concerns. This has a positive impact of children's safety and welfare.

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):

- Develop resources accessible to children on a daily basis which promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children (this particularly refers to gender).

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