

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY276472
Inspection date	27 March 2008
Inspector	Christine Tipple
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 December 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged three years and one aged four months in the town of Beverley. She is close to shops and other local amenities. The whole of the ground floor as well as an additional bathroom on the first floor is used for childminding purposes. There is a rear enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of four children under eight years of age and there are currently five children on roll. The family have two cats. The childminder uses her car on occasion for transporting children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local childminder support group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are secure in the health and hygiene routines in place. The facilities offer the children independence in managing their personal care effectively. Children are informed about the purpose of having clean hands, and the childminder provides individual towels and antibacterial soap. Appropriate hygiene procedures are carried out when changing and disposing of nappies. There are details provided for parents on the care of children when ill, and this includes exclusion periods before they can return to the childminders. The childminder takes positive steps to minimise cross infection occurring.

Children have daily opportunities to be in the fresh air and have exercise. They walk to school and to the local park and have other visits in the area. The garden is used as often as possible and the children have a selection of toys and equipment to practice and develop their physical skills, such as bikes, slide and ball games. This is further extended to provide other challenges for the children in attending a music and movement group and the local childminder groups activity sessions. The children access a range of smaller tools and resources which promote their development of their hand-eye coordination, to manipulate, be creative and to build and construct.

Children have snacks and light lunches provided by the childminder. These provide a selection of fruit and sandwiches with a variety of fillings. Overall, the food offered promotes healthy options for the children and they select from the fruit bowl through the day. The children discuss with the childminder what they want for lunch. This provides the opportunity to discuss what is healthy and to encourage them to try different foods. There are the occasional biscuits and crisps but this is discussed and shared with parents to ensure a balance is provided. Drinks are accessible for the children through the day and this is usually water or juice. Children's dietary needs are recorded as required.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises provide a welcoming clean environment for the children. Children use the space and facilities confidently to access the range of play opportunities in place. The children have a good selection of toys and resources which promote their ongoing development and learning which are accessible, enabling children to self select what they want. These are monitored to ensure they remain safe, suitable and clean. There is appropriate equipment for the children to sleep, rest and eat in comfortable surroundings.

The childminder takes all appropriate steps to ensure the safety of the children in her care. This is supported with a policy statement and a risk assessment for outings. Children regularly participate in the evacuation procedure which is discussed with the children to inform them why it is important to know what to do in an emergency situation. The childminder checks the smoke alarms in the property to ensure they are working. Children go out on a daily basis where they practice crossing the road in a safe way. This is enhanced with leaflets and related activities on keeping safe. Children are transported in the car and they are confident in using the car seats and keeping themselves secure. All other relevant safety measures are provided by the childminder, such as a fire guard and kitchen cupboard locks.

Children's welfare and safety is managed effectively by the childminder. She has relevant information and guidance in place on safeguarding the children in her care which are shared with parents. The childminder has attended recent training to ensure her knowledge and information is relevant and up to date.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy at the childminders. Warm and caring relationships are formed and this is reflected in the children's confidence and self assurance. The children make choices in what they want to play with and the childminder rotates the range of resources to maintain their ongoing interest. The variety of activities provide the children with positive learning opportunities. There is an outline plan of the day in place which is flexible according to the children's needs.

The relationships in place enable the children to develop their communication and language skills effectively. Children enjoy being creative and there is a selection of resources and materials for the children to use. Time is spent by the childminder in supporting children's learning and development through her encouragement and appropriate questioning which extend the children's own ideas. For example, dressing up as a fire person and discussing at length how they were all to be rescued. Recognition of colours, shapes and numbers are used throughout the children's play. Outings in the community and other social activities enhance the children's skills and learning opportunities very well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides an environment where the children's individual needs are supported and valued. The childminder has a policy statement which promotes equality of opportunity through her practice, and for children to develop to their full potential. Children have access to all areas of her provision and are able to participate in other activities within their community. There is a selection of resources provided which reflect diversity and the children participate in a variety of celebrations which include other cultures.

Children behave well and this is managed effectively by the childminder. The children are comfortable with the expectations and routines in place. Children are developing their skills in taking turns and sharing, and this is well promoted by the childminder and they are managing this well. Time is given to discuss with the children the reasons why a behaviour is not appropriate. Children take some responsibility to make decisions about who has what toy and when. The childminder is calm and caring in her approach with the children, and they are learning to be respectful and to use their manners. The children have regular praise and encouragement in what they do which builds their confidence and self-esteem effectively.

Partnership with parents is good. The childminder has taken the time to put a range of information together, such as policies and procedures for parents. This provides them with a positive insight into what is provided and how this supports and benefits their children. Time is given on a daily basis for parents to discuss their child's day with the childminder, along with the daily diaries which they are able to contribute to. Evidence of the children's creative work is shared and photograph's are being used to create an ongoing record of the children at their various activities. Relevant written consent is in place from parents and contracts of agreement

are established. Parents feedback on the care provided is very good and they appreciate the range of activities and experiences their children receive with the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is well organised in her approach which results in the children and parents being happy with the care and provision in place. The space and facilities are well maintained and offer the children a range of opportunities in their play and learning. The childminder is involved with the local childminder support group which provides additional activities for the children as well as links with local support networks and training opportunities. The childminder has attended ongoing training, such as safeguarding children, dance and movement and a baby sign language course.

There is a range of policies and procedures and a detailed file that links to the National Standards which are shared with parents. Other documentation and records are in place and reviewed to ensure they remain up to date and are kept secure and retain confidentiality. However, the recording of medication provided is not sufficiently detailed. The childminder has evaluated her practice and continues to seek guidance and support as required to develop the quality of care she provides. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last care report recommended the childminder develop the resources in relation to cultural diversity, to devise and implement an emergency evacuation plan, and ensure relevant details are in place in relation safeguarding children. To obtain written permission from parents in relation to consent for emergency medical treatment or advice, and for children to be taken on outings and be transported in a vehicle.

The childminder has written consent from parents in relation to seeking emergency medical treatment and for outings, and children being transported in a vehicle. There are clear safeguarding details in place which include contact information to the relevant agencies. The childminder has extended the range of toys and resources which offer a positive approach to promoting cultural diversity with the children.

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 can be seen 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):

- extend information recorded in relation to the administration of medication.

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