



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY337475
Inspection date	19 January 2007
Inspector	Carol-Anne Shaw
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 satisfactory. 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 2006. She lives with her husband and two children aged five years and 20 months, in Leven, near Beverley in East Yorkshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The family has a pet rabbit.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She has four children on roll, of these, none are over eight years of age.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from infection through hygiene routines. They are cared for in a welcoming home which is effectively organised for childminding. Children's health is supported by the childminder working to the range of policies and procedures that outline how the childminding service is organised. The childminder meets children's physical, nutritional and health needs well. The childminder gives support and guidance to help children gain a satisfactory understanding of hygiene. For example, children are made aware that washing their hands is important to prevent the spread of germs. The childminder checks with the children that they have followed the appropriate hygiene routines to maintain their health.

Children have good access to daily physical play. They explore and develop physical control in daily indoor and outdoor activities. This is planned to ensure they have regular opportunities to enjoy the local outdoor areas. The children use the outside play area. She ensures children have many opportunities to develop new skills in games and activities that encourage increasing physical control. Children are able to be independent within the safe environment. Through discussion they are helped to understand how exercise helps them to stay fit and healthy.

Children's health is fostered through provision of healthy meals. They have access to regular drinks and a snack, often fruit mid morning and afternoon. The childminder discusses healthy foods with the children, enabling them to have a good understanding of why healthy eating is important. The childminder works with parents to ensure children have a range of healthy nutritious foods. The close communication with parents ensures all children's individual dietary requirements are met effectively.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are protected; the environment has been made safe and risks to children have been identified and minimised by the childminder. This allows children the freedom to move about safely in the areas used for childminding, and to independently access equipment and resources. The childminder supervises the children, thus keeping them safe both inside and outside the home.

Children benefit from a range of suitable resources. They enjoy using the range of good quality toys and equipment. The childminder ensures these are appropriate to their ages and stages of development, and they are well organised, allowing children to freely access what is available.

Children are protected from abuse. The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. She ensures parents are made aware of her role and responsibilities in this area. Her attention to children's welfare means that child protection is promoted. The childminder has effective communication with parents, which also contributes to children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle quickly at the provision, making themselves at home. Children are confident and the relationships between the childminder and the children are strong. Children socialise with other children in the childminder's home. They become increasingly independent as they choose from the range of well presented resources and toys organised by the childminder. The planned outings and walks enable children to extend their knowledge and understanding in a very practical way. They access a wide range of very suitable activities to support their development in the daily routines.

They enjoy a range of different activities to support their creativity, for example, painting, collage and modelling. Children learn about number in everyday activities. The care of the children is good with excellent relationships evident. This enables children to feel secure and leave their parents with confidence. The childminder gives lots of practical help to enable younger children to join in with activities. The children responded very well to the childminder when joining in with the five little ducks puppet, counting and jumping in excitement when the ducks all came back.

Children enjoy the outings to the library and visits to places of interest. They have many opportunities to play and use outside equipment effectively to support their physical development.

Younger children's home routines are followed for rest and sleeping. The childminder works with parents to enable children to be supported appropriately with their own individual care routine. This is discussed on a daily basis and changed to meet the differing situations.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued as individuals, and their individual needs are met each day as they follow a daily routine that is discussed and agreed with parents. Children show concern for others and learn to take turns and share. They behave very well, showing respect for both resources and others. Children are encouraged to use good manners and say 'please' and 'thank you' when having their snack.

The childminder provides a limited range of activities to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's understanding of others. They learn about their own culture as they explore different celebrations and visit local places of interest to support their development.

Children's needs are met through good partnership with parents. The childminder ensures parents are kept informed of each day their child spends with the childminder. Copies of the childminder's policies are available for parents in her information folder, giving clear guidance to her service. This works effectively to inform parents of both the childminder's and parents' role. Lots of verbal exchange ensures that children's needs are met on a daily basis

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are relaxed and at home in the well organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their play and learning. The childminder's policies are used appropriately to promote the welfare and care of the children. These are shared with parents to keep them well informed about the childminding service, which contributes to continuity in the children's care.

The childminder has a range of policies linked to current childcare information. Working with her good documentation has enabled the childminder to monitor and maintain a safe environment for the children attending her service.

The childminder's personal development is ongoing and she attends training events to develop her knowledge. All of the required documentation for the safe management of the childminding service is well organised and available for parents and the inspection process. It is stored appropriately to maintain confidentiality.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 satisfactory. 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):

- provide activities to support children's understanding of diversity

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children.

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