

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY345204
Inspection date	13 July 2007
Inspector	Denise May Smith
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 2007. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and nine in a Fenland town near to Peterborough. The whole of the childminder's house may be used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding seven children under five, and one child over five after school, all on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children and attends the local toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is being well promoted. All of their health care needs are fully discussed with parents ensuring they are met effectively. Documentation is in place to support the care of children, such as for medication, accidents and permission to seek medical treatment in an emergency. Additional permission to use sun cream ensures children enjoy the benefits of fresh

air and sunshine in safety. The children enjoy being physically active and are developing strong healthy bodies with daily walks, outings to the park and to a variety of toddler groups. In the childminder's home, the children play in the garden with a range of age-appropriate toys and equipment which promote their development. The children benefit from following their individual routines, such as sleep times which are discussed and agreed with parents.

Children are effectively protected from the risks of cross infection because the childminder maintains a good standard of hygiene in her home. The children are learning about being healthy in their daily care routines and their personal care is managed well.

The childminder provides children with a variety of nutritious snacks and meals which promotes their good health. Through discussion with parents, the childminder is aware of the children's needs. Drinks are always available and older children can ask and help themselves as they wish. The children enjoy helping to bake and prepare meals such as fruit kebabs. This means that they are learning about healthy eating while having fun.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home provides a welcoming environment for children. The areas used by the children give them sufficient space for different activities and they have access to the back garden to extend their play. Children can independently access the downstairs cloakroom. A wide range of clean and appropriate play materials are available for the children to use. Most of the play materials are stored in the playroom and are set out so that children make their own choices in their play.

Children are kept safe because the childminder takes steps to minimise risks in her home and when outdoors. She ensures all dangerous substances are kept locked away and has fenced off an area in her garden where larger equipment, which is not age-appropriate, is inaccessible. However, the childminder is not sure if the glass in the low-level cabinet is safety glass, which potentially poses a danger to children. The childminder supervises children carefully and is helping older children to develop a sense of safety for themselves. For example, they learn about road safety as they walk to school and when on outings.

The childminder has a sound understanding of her role in protecting children from harm or neglect. She is aware of the signs and symptoms that would cause concern and has relevant information to refer to should she have any such concerns about the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled, happy and relaxed in the childminder's care. Their development is being very well promoted because the childminder has a good knowledge of their individual stages of development, their characters and their interests. A flexible daily routine with outings, walks and visits to toddler group provide children with a wide and enjoyable range of activities and opportunities to develop their social interaction with other children.

The childminder is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and takes note of them when considering activities. She is careful to record and evaluate the weeks activities; this information is used to inform future planning. The childminder very effectively balances the differing needs of the children she cares for, involving them all in activities. For example, she

engages an older child by sliding bean bags down a large cardboard tube over the back of the sofa for him to catch while the two babies use the bean bags to throw into two baskets developing their coordination skills. The childminder sits and shares a book with one baby making her laugh as it makes a noise while the other baby enjoys playing with the tea set and role play toys. All the children are happy, involved and receiving lots of praise and encouragement for their efforts and their success.

The children take part in a range of messy play activities. They enjoy driving toy cars through trays of rice and exploring the texture of cold spaghetti and shaving foam.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children make themselves at home with the childminder. She knows the children well treating them as individuals and with respect helping them to feel good about themselves. They gain an awareness of diversity through some of the activities provided and the resources available. The childminder shows a pro-active approach to caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities. Children are beginning to develop a sense of place and learn about where they live through regular outings around the local environment.

Children behave well. They learn right from wrong, about sharing and taking turns with toys and play equipment. This ensures they play harmoniously together and learn to be kind to each other. They receive regular praise and positive reinforcement from the childminder, who acts as a good role model, as she says please and thank you to them.

Parents are kept informed about the care the childminder offers. She ensures that she shares all the necessary records and information with parents and provides a daily written and verbal feedback to parents about the children's day and the care they have received. New parents are encouraged to visit the home prior to the child being looked after, ensuring the childminder knows the child's daily routine and children's individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care and welfare is effectively promoted by the childminder's appropriate organisation. She understands her responsibilities as a childminder and how the National Standards and associated guidance support her work. She complies with most regulatory requirements including holding an appropriate first aid qualification which safeguards children. However, she has not completed the training course that all newly registered childminders are required to complete. This has impacted on the overall judgment awarded, which does not reflect the quality of care provided across the other outcomes.

The childminder has all of the required documentation in place, it is well organised, and ensures information relevant to the children's care and welfare is easily accessible.

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):

- ensure that any low-level glass does not pose a danger to children
- complete the Introduction to Childcare Practice course.

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