

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY347328
Inspection date	02 August 2007
Inspector	Ros Church
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 2007. She lives with her two children in Grantham, Lincolnshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, sleeping facilities are available on the first floor and toilet facilities are available on both floors. There is an enclosed rear garden which is used for outdoor play. The house is within walking distance of local amenities. The family has two cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She currently cares for two children under five part-time. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association, and she holds an appropriate qualification in early years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and clean environment where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through good explanations and routines. Children wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. Children use anti-bacterial soap and

have their own towel for drying their hands. The childminder has a current first aid certificate and keeps this up to date to ensure children are appropriately cared for if they become ill or have an accident. The childminder has recording systems in place if she is required to give any medication or in the event of any accident whilst childminding. However, although there is a procedure in place for recording existing injuries which children arrive with, these are not always recorded to ensure children's welfare.

Children have good opportunities to learn about healthy eating and enjoy a nutritious and healthy diet. Children have fresh fruit and vegetables as part of their daily snack and meal menu. For example, they enjoy fresh strawberries for their mid-morning snack. The childminder takes account of children's individual needs and preferences by working well with the parents. A good range of activities are planned which help children to learn about healthy eating, these include baking, making pizzas, potato painting and strawberry picking. Children are able to access their own different coloured drinking bottles as they require, this ensures that they do not become thirsty.

Children enjoy daily opportunities for physical exercise and fresh air. A range of equipment is available within the garden which promotes physical activity; this includes a small slide and climbing frame, and a very good range of wheeled toys such as cars, scooters and tricycles. Other equipment and activities within the garden include a play house and musical instruments. Children are able to develop and extend their climbing and balancing skills through regular trips to the local park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure environment. The rooms on the ground floor provide children with space to be involved in a variety of activities. Children have access to a good range of suitable and age-appropriate toys and equipment. The living room is well organised with toys and books stored on a low unit providing opportunities for children to select equipment which meets their developmental needs. An extensive amount of additional creative and craft equipment is stored within labelled containers and cupboards.

Children's safety is a high priority and effectively maintained through the childminder's good knowledge and practice. For example, within the kitchen hazardous cleaning materials are kept within a locked cupboard out of the reach of children, a fridge lock is in place and the ironing board is stored safely. The front door is kept locked with the key available to the childminder, this ensures good security. The childminder ensures that children are supervised well, this means they are able to move around safely and independently which increases their confidence. Effective fire safety systems are in place to protect children from harm. Smoke detectors are placed on both levels of the home and the emergency escape plan is regularly practised. Outings are planned well with children's safety in mind, appropriate seat restraints are used when children travel in the car. The childminder helps children to learn about safety when on outings, such as crossing roads safely. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a good awareness of the child protection procedures and knows what to do in the event of any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and settled within the childminder's care. A good range of activities are planned and provided which take account of children's development. Children are keen to get involved with activities because the childminder knows what they are interested in and ensures equipment is readily available for them throughout the day. The childminder provides a good range of art and craft activities. For example, children enjoy painting using marbles, choosing from the different coloured paints, adding textures such as glitter and then creating their designs. The childminder interacts well with the children, she extends their learning and adapts activities to meet developmental needs. Children acquire new knowledge and skills through well-planned activities such as baking, art and craft activities, building with a variety of construction materials, and role play activities.

Children make good relationships with the childminder and one another; they enjoy looking at books together, and talk about their interests and experiences. Children play well together, they learn to share and take turns with the equipment. Children use their imagination when using the equipment, pretending to be animals, or using equipment to act out role play experiences such as cooking. The childminder further extends children's learning by visiting local places of interest such as the museum, or joining in with organised creative activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into the childminder's home, they are respected and valued as individuals. Children are cared for according to parents' wishes; the childminder takes account of individual routines and care needs. Regular discussions, daily diaries and scrap books containing children's art work, and photographs ensures parents are well informed about their child's progress and routines. The welcome folder provides comprehensive information on the childminder's policies, procedures, meals and activities. The childminder has systems in place to support the inclusion of children with identified disabilities and/or learning difficulties.

Children behave well within the childminder's care and play cooperatively together. They learn to help one another and take turns. For example, during the marble painting activity children took turns to roll the marbles on the tray, whilst others watched and gave help when needed. Children's good behaviour is supported by the childminder who interacts calmly and positively with them. This enables children to make good choices about their behaviour whilst developing self-esteem and confidence. Children are beginning to develop an understanding of the wider world and the needs of others through a good range of resources and planned activities. A broad range of resources and equipment are provided which positively reflect diversity in society, these include books, jigsaws, dolls, dressing-up and play figures.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children have suitable levels of support and supervision to enable them to feel secure in the setting. The space within the home is organised effectively to enable children to have space for active play, relaxation and sleep as required. Most records are maintained to a generally good standard. However, accurate records of arrival and collection times are not kept, and existing injuries which children arrive with are not always recorded to ensure children's welfare. The childminder ensures confidentiality of children's records by storing these securely. A folder

of information about her service is available for parents to enable them to make an informed decision about placing their child with her. The childminder keeps up to date with all required training, such as first aid, this enables her to run her business safely and deal promptly with any accidents that occur when children are in her care. Overall children's needs are met.

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 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):

- further develop systems for recording accidents and incidents, with regard to recording existing injuries children arrive with
- ensure accurate records are kept, with regard to children's daily attendance.

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