

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY358044        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 16 July 2008    |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Jackie Phillips |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Childcare       |
| <b>Type of care</b>            | 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](http://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 2007. She lives with her partner and two sons, a 10 year old and a teenager. The family live in Grimsby, within North East Lincolnshire. Minded children have access to all of the property, apart from the small front bedroom. There is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

Registration is for four children under the age of eight years. Overnight care may be provided for one child aged between five and eight years of age. Currently, there are seven children on roll who attend for flexible sessions. Of these, five are under eight years and two are over eight years. At times the childminder works with an assistant.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She takes and collects children from the local school and uses amenities, such as the toddler group and park. The family keep one dog as a pet.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are involved in effective routines that help them to understand about their personal hygiene. For example, they regularly wash their hands using resources that reduce the risk of potential cross infection, such as individual hand towels. They frequently use the attractive garden area for exercise, fresh air and to participate in physical play activities. There are toys and equipment to support this. For instance, a good selection of mobile toys, balls and skittles, a playhouse, work bench and sand tray. In addition, children are taken to local places of interest that provide rich experiences in the outdoors. For example, to the woods for a nature trail and to the beach, farm or park.

A varied menu of nourishing meals is in place. This includes a selection of healthy options, such as pasta, salads and fish. During the day children taste a variety of fresh and dried fruits for their snack. Cooking activities are organised to help children understand the process of putting ingredients together to make something nice to eat. For example, they have made pizzas, biscuits and cakes. On a weekly basis, 'Fresh Food Friday' is planned to help children focus on new foods to taste. For example, unfamiliar fruits or those associated with other cultures. This widens the food-tasting experience for children.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children play in the front lounge where the majority of the toys and play resources are located. The supplies are regularly rotated so that the variety remains fresh and interesting for children. Toys are stored at a low level, which helps children to self-select and promotes their choice, decision-making and independence skills. The range of equipment is varied and includes those to meet the needs of the age range of children attending. Registration includes overnight care, although this service has not yet been requested since registration. The childminder confidently explains how she ensures the designated bedroom to be used for overnight care is a clean and hazard-free room for children to use.

Children are well assisted to be aware of their personal safety. For example, they are involved in practising the emergency evacuation procedure of the setting. Outings are organised to visit the local fire station as part of Fire Safety Week. This extends and consolidates children's learning and understanding. Risk assessments, which include daily visual checks, ensure the setting is a safe and secure place for children. A range of documentation is in place to support children's safety. For example, this includes a record of their injuries, an accurately maintained attendance register and written details, shared by parents, of accidents children have sustained away from the setting. The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibility to safeguard children and protect them from harm. For example, ensuring those adults who have access to children are suitable to do so.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

As they play children are well supported by positive interaction provided by the childminder. For instance, as they play with the post office game, she introduces real coins and discusses with them the monetary value. During a game of dominoes, children are helped to understand

the rules by use of clear, simple language provided by the adult. Children are encouraged to find the pieces they are looking for and they name the different animals. These activities effectively support children's use of language and developing vocabulary, their understanding of numeracy and their listening skills. When children express a particular interest this is developed by use of appropriately linked activities. For example, children cut out pictures of aeroplanes they have selected and use these to make a collage placemat for the dining table. This approach supports children's learning, developed from something they find interesting, and makes effective links, developing additional skills through different activities.

Play experiences are planned for children in advance. This is usually around a theme or topic and includes the celebration of a range of festivals throughout the calendar year. For example, children celebrate Chinese New Year. The childminder carries out observations and assessments of children's progress, which are shared with parents. This assists the planning of a varied range of activities which can be adapted to support children's individual learning and development needs. However, not all photographs are dated to support the assessment process effectively. The activities provided for children include growing and planting, such as sunflowers and strawberries. Children are involved in a good range of creative activities, such as colouring, mark making and painting, using different techniques. Their understanding of the use of technology is raised through participating in interactive games which include those to develop children's skills at counting. They listen to a selection of pre-recorded children's music as they play.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Good consideration is given to meeting children's individual needs. This takes place through close liaison with parents and helping children to feel valued. In addition, the childminder finds appropriate and considerate ways to meet children's specific requirements, enabling them to feel included. Children are made aware of the wider community through outings and play activities. For example, additional multicultural supplies are borrowed from the local toy library, which ensures that children have a wide range of toys and equipment to benefit from.

Children behave well at the setting and their understanding of positive behaviour is well supported. For example, through techniques that involve explanation, distraction and praise. Parents are kept informed regarding children's behaviour to support continuity and for those children who need additional help, a reward chart can be introduced to help them understand. Written parental consent is obtained for a large number of operational procedures. This includes parents' permission for outings to take place, although currently the written information is not clear about the use of public transport which is sometimes used.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder demonstrates a commitment to training and a positive attitude to professional development. This means children benefit from an adult who has access to current information and who is secure in her knowledge of a range of childcare issues. Children are involved in a flexible routine that involves interesting activities that take place within and outside of the setting. This ensures they experience a stimulating day that supports their health, safety and well-being. Effective relationships are established with parents through an open and honest exchange of information. The childminder has recently introduced and shared with parents

details of a website initiated by the local authority. Through this, parents can receive details solely of their child's progress and development, current information about the setting and how it provides to meet the needs for young children.

All required documentation is in place and an attractive and informative resource file is established to share with parents. This helps to keep them well informed about operational procedures. The range of documentation and written policies supports the efficient function of the setting. An assistant, who can be left in sole charge of children for short periods of time, means the childminder can be supported in her care of children. Written consent from parents for this to take place is currently not established. 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 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):

- obtain written parental consent for the assistant to be in sole charge of children for short periods of time
- consider dating photographs taken of children involved in activities and events to support the assessment process
- develop the written permission slip shared with parents regarding public transport arrangements for outings.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)