



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256602
Inspection date	23 May 2006
Inspector	Georgina Emily Hobson Matthews
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 1993. She lives with her husband and two children, aged over 16 years, in a house on the outskirts of Norwich, close to local shops and parks.

Currently, she is caring for children on a part-time basis and four children attend at different times. Children have access to all parts of her home and an enclosed rear garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and regularly attends local toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted and they are protected from becoming ill as the childminder displays sound hygiene practice and has adequate systems in place to prevent the spread of infection. She has procedures to take appropriate measures if children are ill. Their welfare is accommodated as the childminder can respond to accidents. She holds current first aid training and a first aid box is well-stocked and easily accessible. Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment. The childminder cleans floors and toilets regularly and work surfaces and highchairs are disinfected prior to eating.

Parents provide snacks and meals for the children and the childminder advises that she discusses any concerns regarding the contents to ensure that a child receives a healthy diet. Special dietary requirements are identified prior to the commencement of care to ensure that parents' wishes and any religious needs are met and that no child is at risk from a reaction to food. Children learn the importance of personal hygiene and some awareness of healthy eating through discussion with the childminder.

Children access the garden and have opportunities to explore a variety of physical movements in the fresh air on some days. Babies are able to develop their physical skills as the childminder encourages them to crawl, to roll over and to stand up with her support. Children rest and sleep without disturbance according to their individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe, indoor and outdoor environment. They have sufficient space for free movement and well-spread out activities and there is adequate storage space for equipment. Children use a range of developmentally appropriate, well-organised, safe and suitable equipment.

Children's safety is mostly fostered as the childminder carries out an ongoing risk assessment of her home to reduce hazards and to minimise the risk of accidental injury to children. However, she does not maintain sufficient supervision of each of the children when accompanying a child to the downstairs toilet. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they are provided with clear explanations about safety issues within the setting and outside and the childminder discusses fire and safety issues with them.

Children are adequately safeguarded in the area of child protection as the childminder is aware of her responsibilities. She has recently up-dated her training in this area and has a secure understanding of the procedures to follow if she has child protection concerns. She has systems in place to release children into the care of other adults in the event of an emergency.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are offered a sufficient range of activities and are able to make choices and to play at their own pace. They help themselves to resources from easily accessible storage boxes. Children enjoy their play and show interest in what they do. They concentrate as they listen to stories with the childminder. She uses her voice well to maintain their interest and uses good questioning techniques. Children are able to look carefully at pictures, to recall what happens from previous readings and to anticipate what may happen next. They have fun creating pictures using coloured pencils and are keen to talk about what they have created.

The childminder is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and has incorporated some of the play and practical support ideas into the activities she provides for younger children. Babies are very comfortable in a cosy nest made from soft cushions and happily explore a selection of easily accessible resources in their own time. They gurgle softly and react with smiles as the childminder interacts and responds to their sounds. She encourages the other children to chat to the babies.

Children develop confidence and self esteem as the childminder is gentle and affectionate and offers them lots of praise and encouragement. They are happy and at ease in her care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are identified prior to the commencement of care through discussion with parents. They are supported in the transition between home and the childminder in order that they are secure and make good progress. Children are treated equally and the childminder organises her time appropriately to meet their daily requirements. Children are developing positive attitudes to diversity as the childminder provides images of the different people that make up our society within her resources. They become aware of the wider society with trips to local shops, parks and toddler and music groups.

The childminder has an awareness of special educational needs. Children understand responsible behaviour and can distinguish between right and wrong. They behave well as the childminder uses positive behaviour management strategies that are appropriate to each child's level of understanding and maturity. Children's ongoing progress is accommodated as the childminder works with parents and provides opportunities at the beginning and end of each day to share information regarding the children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the care of an appropriately vetted and experienced childminder. Children's progress is enhanced as the childminder accesses childcare workshops to improve her practice.

The childminder generally organises her home effectively to accommodate children's play. They are able to move around easily and safely and main play takes place in the sitting room. A dining

room is available for meals and a child-sized table is set up in the kitchen for craft activities. Undisturbed sleep is accommodated in an upstairs bedroom and in the dining room. A toilet is available on the ground floor. Overall the needs of all the children attending are met.

Documentation to promote the welfare and care of the children is well organised and stored securely to ensure confidentiality.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to improve her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. She has addressed this issue by attending additional training.

Complaints since the last inspection

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.

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 01 April 2004.

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):

- maintain sufficient supervision of the children at all times in order to ensure their safety.

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