



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY313187
Inspection date	25 April 2006
Inspector	Moira Oliver

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 2005. She lives with her family in the town of Felixstowe. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and the children have access to the bathroom upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children, all of whom attend on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a dog as a pet.

The childminder is a member of the Felixstowe and District Childminding Group and the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted and cross infection is minimised because the childminder has a sound knowledge of good health and hygiene and has effective procedures in place. For example, hand washing takes place before handling food and after using the toilet, playing in the garden or touching the pets. Food is stored and prepared appropriately and all areas used by the children are clean. Children are beginning to understand simple good health and hygiene routines as they are reminded to wash after stroking the dog. They know why it is important to wash their hands.

Suitable action is taken when children are ill to make sure they receive appropriate care. Emergency contact numbers, medication and accident books are in place and the childminder ensures she has all the information necessary to provide appropriate care for each individual child.

Children are nourished and their dietary needs are met as the childminder encourages them to make healthy choices about what they eat. She eats with the children sharing the sociable experience and the food. Children are introduced to new foods such as healthy dips and fruit and they talk about the consistency and tastes of the food, exploring bananas and the seeds inside.

Children have opportunities for fresh air and exercise as they visit the park, go on walks to the beach, feed the horses or go to the woods. They enjoy collecting items such as twigs and cones from the woods to make winter pictures. Quiet times are provided to enable children to rest or sleep according to their home routines, working with the parents wishes.

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 indoor and outdoor environment. The childminder is aware of possible hazards and reduces risks by making her house safe to protect the children. The premises are secure and children are unable to leave them unattended. The premises offer suitable facilities to promote children's independence as they move freely around, accessing the upstairs toilet and the toys and equipment in the garden.

Children use safe and suitable toys and equipment, all items are checked on every use and any broken pieces are thrown away. The childminder supports them to access the equipment safely by getting down the boxes which are on high shelves. She has plans to arrange all boxes on lower shelving to ensure children can access

them independently.

Children are supervised at all times, the childminder is very attentive providing lots of support and encouragement. Children learn to keep themselves and others safe and to look after the toys and equipment ensuring that they are tidied away after use to prevent accidents.

Children are protected because the childminder understands her role in child protection and is able to put procedures into practice when necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are offered a range of activities and play opportunities appropriate to their age and stage of development. The childminder has a good knowledge of child development and is keen to attend more training to extend her knowledge and skills further. The childminder is particularly interested in developing her care of the under three's and is waiting for the 'Birth to three matters' framework publication.

Children are free to make their own choices. They confidently select puzzles and the train-set and involve the childminder in their play. Children use their imagination as they put the trains onto the track and move them to the stations and under the tunnels. Children are beginning to understand simple rules of board games such as Junior Monopoly and enjoy collecting houses and confidently count as they move their counter along the board. The childminder supports their play, encouraging their imagination and extending their language and mathematical skills.

Children have opportunities to explore their local surroundings including visits to the beach and outings to Ipswich parks and museums. They have opportunities to socialise with their peers during regular visits to parent and toddler groups and meet with other childminders and their children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and relaxed in the company of the childminder. They know each other well and enjoy each others company. The childminder provides a welcoming and friendly atmosphere and is loving and caring towards the children. It is obvious, from the way they interact, that they are very fond of each other.

Children are supported in the transition between home and the childminder so that they become confident and make good progress. The childminder works closely with the parents and carers to ensure all the children are included and their needs met. Close relationships are built between the childminder and the parents and information is shared daily. Parents and carers are very happy with the care their children receive, they state that it is obvious from their children's behaviour, that they receive high quality care and attention from the childminder.

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of effective behaviour management and uses developmentally appropriate and effective skills and strategies to promote positive behaviour. For example, she is consistent in her approach, encourages the children and treats them with respect and sensitivity which enables them to feel valued.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a childminder who has a sound knowledge and understanding of the National Standards and ensures children are protected. She is aware of their safety and ensures they are supervised at all times. The childminder is effective in her organisation of time, space and resources ensuring children's needs are met and helping them to make good progress.

The childminder keeps up-to-date with new legislation and training opportunities accessing workshops and National Childminding Association conferences, enhancing her knowledge and skills to provide good quality child care.

Children's records and relevant paperwork are in place, however, some parental permissions forms were not available for inspection.

Overall, the children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable, first inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration. 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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?
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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 all paperwork, including parental permission forms, are available for inspection.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk