



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY318099
Inspection date	22 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 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. He lives with his wife, a registered childminder, and their two children, aged 12 and 13 years. Their nearest town is Beccles, in Suffolk, close to local shops and parks.

He cares for children on a full-time basis and currently nine children attend at different times. Children have access to the ground floor of his home and the main bedroom on the first floor is used as a sleep area. An enclosed rear garden is available for outdoor play.

The family has a dog and a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted and they are protected from becoming ill as the childminder displays sound hygiene practice and has effective systems in place to prevent the spread of infection. Floors are washed and vacuumed each day before the children arrive and work surfaces and highchairs are cleaned before meals. Outdoor shoes are worn in areas where young children crawl. Cross contamination from pets is safeguarded. Children are supervised carefully when handling pets and generally appropriate arrangements are in place for feeding and preventing animals from fouling any areas used by children. However, on the floor of the kitchen the dog's water bowl is accessible to children. Systems are in place to take appropriate measures if children are ill. Their welfare is accommodated as the childminder can respond to accidents appropriately. He holds current first aid training and a first aid box is well-stocked and easily accessible. Children actively learn the importance of personal hygiene and to take responsibility for their own personal needs as they wash hands before eating, after toileting, touching pets and outdoor play. They learn to prevent cross contamination as they use individual towels and flannels.

Children develop an awareness of healthy eating as the childminder encourages the children to taste a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables at snack and lunch times. The childminder discusses any concerns regarding packed meals provided by parents in order to ensure that children receive 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 to regulate their own drinking needs as they have access to individual drinks at all times.

Children develop a positive attitude to exercise as they have opportunities each day to explore a variety of physical movements in the fresh air. They develop large, physical skills as they run, throw, catch and kick balls in the garden. On outings, children develop their confidence on large, soft play equipment that provides challenge and they balance, climb and jump in a safe setting. Children rest and sleep without disturbance, according to their individual needs, in travel cot or bed in a room on the first floor.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, child-centred, secure and safe, indoor and outdoor environment. They have sufficient space for free movement and spread out activities and there is adequate storage space for equipment. Children's safety is

fostered as the childminder carries out an ongoing risk assessment of his home. The hazard of the bathroom door opening outwards into the hall area has not been identified and minimised to prevent the risk of accidental injury to children.

Children use a range of developmentally appropriate equipment that is checked for safety on a regular basis. They learn to keep themselves safe as they are provided with clear explanations about safety issues within the setting and outside. The childminder raises the children's awareness of fire safety with practice drills and they learn about the 'Green Cross Code' in the childminder's quiet

cul-de-sac.

Children are safeguarded in the area of child protection as the childminder is aware of his responsibilities. He has a secure understanding of the procedures to follow if he has child protection concerns and has systems in place to release the 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 varied range of activities. A selection of resources is laid out each day and children are able to make their own choices and to play at their own pace. They enjoy their play and show interest as they explore construction materials and use their imagination as they move cars around on a road mat. Children concentrate and show pleasure in their achievements as they identify objects from large flashcards. They sing quietly and smile as they explore sounds using a small keyboard.

The childminder successfully improves outcomes for young children as he incorporates some of the play and practical support ideas from the 'Birth to three matters' framework into the activities he provides for younger children. Babies play alongside the older children. They are happy, content and comfortable and are able to explore a range of easily accessible, age-appropriate resources. The childminder communicates with babies using gentle sounds and gestures. They laugh and smile with delight as they acquire greater control over their bodies and develop new physical skills. The childminder helps them to balance and to support themselves on the sofa and offers lots of praise and encouragement.

Children are at ease in the childminder's care. They separate easily from their parents as they receive a warm welcome from the childminder. He is gentle and affectionate and works at the children's level. They receive thoughtful support and attentive care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel a sense of belonging as the childminder displays attractive collages of photographs of children at play and bright posters in the hall. Activities are set up

prior to their arrival and they access these happily and settle quickly. Children's individual needs are identified prior to the commencement of care. They are treated equally and activities are adapted to accommodate their needs.

Children are developing positive attitudes to diversity as the childminder includes images of the different people that make up our society within his resources. They become aware of the wider society with outings to local parent and toddler groups, the library, shops, trips to the beach and to a soft play centre.

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 are supported well in the transition between home and the childminder in order that they are secure. Their ongoing progress is accommodated as the childminder works closely with parents. They are provided with a comprehensive 'Welcome Pack' after initially contacting the childminder. This contains information regarding the childminder's policies and procedures and references from other parents. The childminder provides opportunities at the beginning and end of each day to share information regarding the children and maintains a diary for each child with brief details of their day. Parents' satisfaction is reflected in their positive feedback.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the care of two appropriately vetted childminders who work well together. Children are never left alone with anyone who is not vetted. Their progress is enhanced as the childminders access childcare workshops and are participating in an accredited quality assurance scheme to improve their practice.

The childminder organises his home effectively to accommodate children's play. Generally, they are able to move around easily and safely and to access equipment in a well prepared environment. Main play takes place in the sitting room where children have space to lie out on the floor with construction materials and large floor puzzles, or to sit on sofas to look at books. A table and chairs are provided in the kitchen for meals and craft activities and additional resources are stored under the stairs. A toilet is available downstairs and undisturbed sleep is accommodated in a cot in an upstairs bedroom. 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

Not applicable.

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 registration.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

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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):

- prevent the spread of infection within the setting with regard to flooring and the dog's feeding bowl
- ensure precautions are taken to prevent accidents to children in the hallway.

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