



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	256222
<b>Inspection date</b>	18 May 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Melanie Calway

<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1992. She lives with her husband and one adult son in a small village near to the town of Fakenham. Two other adult children live nearby and visit regularly. The whole of the premises, except the son's bedroom, are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. She takes children out on occasional outings in the car and walks with them to the duck pond and the playground. The family keep a dog as a pet.

She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding five children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

She is a member of the National Childminding Organisation.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because there are satisfactory hygiene procedures in place. The environment is clean and well maintained. The childminder uses anti-bacterial spray to clean equipment after nappy changing and disposes of nappies hygienically. Toys are washed regularly. However children are not learning about the importance of good hygiene because wipes or flannels are used to clean their hands before eating and so they are not becoming familiar with hand washing routines and opportunities to talk to them about hygiene are missed.

Children's medical needs are met as the childminder has a current first aid qualification and a first aid kit is kept in the kitchen so that she can deal with minor accidents and injuries appropriately. Consent for emergency advice or treatment has been obtained so that she can seek help in an emergency. Details of children's medical conditions are recorded, with instructions from parents so that children can be properly cared for. Children are protected from the risk of infection as parents are advised to keep children with infectious conditions away.

Children have good opportunities for fresh air and exercise as they play outside and the childminder takes them for walks every day to the local playground or duck pond. Children can rest and sleep according to their needs on the sofa in the living room or in a travel cot. The large friendly dog is often present with the children. The dog is fed at night when children are not present so that the bowls are not left where children can access them.

Children are well nourished. They have a choice of healthy snacks and meals, which are provided by the parents. The childminder asks children if they need a drink to prevent them becoming dehydrated and fetches it for them. Children are not able to access fresh drinking water independently. Children's dietary needs are met as the childminder obtains all the relevant information from parents.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and suitable environment, which is made welcoming to children as a selection of toys is available for them to play with at their level. The premises are secure. The front door is kept locked and the rear is protected by a high fence and bolted gate. Children have space to play and move around safely in the living room and kitchen. The dining room is used for craft and messy activities. Children can access a satisfactory range of toys and equipment, which are safe and age-appropriate. The childminder checks them for safety and cleanliness when she buys them and regularly discards any old or broken items.

Children are kept safe because the childminder always maintains a good level of supervision. The environment is safe and free from hazards. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe as the childminder gives them explanations about safety rules, for example she talks to them about hot drinks and kettles. Children are kept safe on outings as the childminder uses reins and talks to the children about why they must hold her hand at times. However, the

necessary written permissions for outing and transport have not been obtained from parents. Children are protected from the risk of fire as the childminder has thought through her evacuation plan and the necessary fire equipment is in place.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder would seek advice if she had any child protection concerns. However, she is not sufficiently clear about the referral route and does not have up to date information or the relevant contact number.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of activities. They can choose from a selection of toys which are made available to them, at their level, in the living room. They also enjoy colouring, painting and playing with play dough or sand. The childminder is flexible in her approach and builds her routine around the children's needs, for example, taking them out when they need to burn off energy. Children develop confidence and self-esteem as the childminder laughs and talks to them throughout the morning, giving plenty of praise and encouragement. She involves herself in their play, using smiles and eye contact, chatting to them and responding to encourage their developing language skills.

Children are offered good levels of challenge as the childminder asks questions as they play with the trains such as "do you think the farmer is taking his sheep to market?". Children are developing independence as they are able to choose what to do. The childminder helps the child to build a train track encouraging him to fit the pieces together himself and giving praise for his achievements. Children are forming positive relationships with the childminder and with each other. They play happily throughout the morning supported by the childminder who shows them genuine affection. Children under three are cared for appropriately. The childminder uses the 'Birth to three matters' framework pack and refers to it regularly as a guide to children's developmental levels.

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

The provision is good.

Children are developing good relationships because the childminder works with parents and carers to meet children's individual needs. The childminder gets to know the children well by talking to them and by obtaining information about their needs and preferences from parents. Children are beginning to learn about the wider world as some books reflect other cultures and because the childminder talks to children about different kinds of people.

Children receive appropriate support and the childminder works with parents to meet any additional needs children may have. She is willing to take children with special needs if she can give them the care they need.

Children behave well because the childminder keeps them busy and occupied. She uses positive methods such as praise, encouragement and distraction to manage children's behaviour and works with parents to provide a consistent approach. She shares her methods of dealing with behaviour with parents when they start, by means of a behaviour policy and through discussion.

The childminder has a good relationship with parents. She shares information verbally about the children's activities and routines at collection times. She provides useful information for parents about her service in a folder, including past inspection reports.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is experienced and has the necessary skills to care for children. She undertakes occasional training to ensure that her knowledge is updated. The childminder and her husband are vetted and cleared as suitable to work with children. She requested a check for her adult son, who lives on the premises, but did not follow it up to check that the clearance procedure had been completed and as a result he has not been cleared. Although this has resulted in a breach in the regulations, the children are effectively protected from unauthorised persons as the childminder maintains direct supervision of children at all times. The childminder is aware of her responsibility to notify Ofsted of changes, although she overlooked reporting that one of her sons had moved out of the family home.

The premises are well organised to provide an environment where children can play safely and with enjoyment. The childminder organises her schedule in a flexible way to ensure that children's needs are met.

Most of the necessary documentation is in place and is well ordered to maintain confidentiality. Overall the needs of the children are met.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop procedures for sharing behaviour strategies with parents. There is now a behaviour policy in place and the childminder discusses behaviour strategies with parents before children start so that parents and the childminder can work together to achieve a consistent approach for children.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

## 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):

- establish hand washing routines for young children and give them explanations so that they learn about the importance of good hygiene
- develop knowledge of child protection procedures and obtain updated information and the contact number for referral
- obtain written permission from parents for outings and transport
- put systems into place to ensure that all adults living on the premises have clearances in place and that any changes are notified to Ofsted.

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)