



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256676
Inspection date	27 March 2006
Inspector	Melanie Calway

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 has been registered since 1997. She lives with her husband and 2 children, aged 16 and 12, in Hunstanton. All areas of the premises are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. She drives to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools and takes children on walks and, in the summer, regular outings to the beach. The family has 2 dogs, which they keep as pets.

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 Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted satisfactorily. There are good hygiene procedures in place. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The childminder has bought attractive soap dispensers with fishes in to make the activity attractive to children. They are learning about good hygiene through the daily routine and know that they need to wash their hands because of "germs". The childminder has good systems in place for nappy changing and uses disposable gloves to reduce the risk of the spread of infection. Children's medical needs are met as all the relevant information has been obtained. Sick children are cared for appropriately and parents are aware that they need to keep infectious children at home to avoid the risk of cross infection. The childminder's First Aid qualification has recently expired but she is booked to go on the next available course to update her knowledge. Written consent for emergency treatment or advice has not been obtained to enable the childminder to seek help in an emergency.

Children have good opportunities for fresh air and exercise. They go for regular walks to the duck pond and to visit other childminders. In the summer they have frequent visits to the beach. Inside they can move freely and enjoy dancing to music videos. Children can sleep and rest as they need to. The childminder works with parents to establish routines. A travel cot is available for children to sleep in comfort. In some cases children sleep in push chairs at the parents' request.

Children are adequately nourished. The childminder provides healthy snacks of fruit and bread sticks. Sometimes they eat cakes they have made. Parents provide packed lunches of sandwiches, yoghurt and crisps. Few explanations are given to children to enable them to learn about a healthy diet. The baby enjoys having a bottle while being cuddled. The childminder provides children with drinks but fresh drinking water is not readily accessible to children and they can not access their drinks independently when they need them. Children's dietary needs are met as all the relevant information is obtained.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in safe and suitable premises. The environment is made welcoming as a selection of toys are available and easily accessible to children at their level. The premises are kept secure and the outside area is enclosed and fenced. Children are able to explore their environment safely. Kitchen cupboards have catches on them and cleaning materials are put out of reach. Children negotiate the steps well and the childminder maintains a good level of supervision to ensure their safety. Although some rooms are small, children can move around freely and

have sufficient room to play. They can access a good range of age appropriate toys and equipment. The childminder checks that toys are safe when she buys them. The accident record is accurately maintained. Children are learning to keep themselves safe as the childminder gives them explanations about safety, for example, "we don't throw in here or we might hurt someone".

Children are kept safe on outings as the childminder always takes emergency numbers with her and talks to children so that they understand the rules when they are out. Although parents have given verbal consent, the necessary written consents for outings and transport have not been obtained. Children are protected from the risk of fire as the childminder has produced a fire evacuation plan and talks to children to help them to understand what to do in the event of a fire. Fire safety equipment is in place.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a good knowledge of child protection procedures. She makes it clear to parents that she has a duty to report any concerns. She has undertaken recent training on child protection and has all the necessary information.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of activities. The childminder takes them on regular outings to three different toddler groups to give them opportunities to socialise. They go on occasional outings to Planet Zoom and in the summer they go to the beach and play in the garden. Inside the children enjoy craft and messy play, dressing up and puzzles. They enjoy moving from room to room and pretending to be different animals. The childminder organises gluing activities for them at the kitchen table. Children are able to make choices about what they play with and the childminder will offer suggestions. Toys are easily accessible so children can get them independently. Children develop good levels of self-confidence and self-esteem. The childminder talks to them kindly and calmly. She talks to them about their own experiences and as a result children communicate confidently with her. Children are offered good levels of challenge. The childminder counts with them and the activity involves re-creating a simple pattern by placing coloured squares along a line to make a caterpillar. Children are also able to make pictures of their own.

Children develop independence as they put their lunches away in the fridge, help to get resources out and put the cloth on the table. They enjoy fetching the childminders letters and putting them away. Children form positive friendships. The two older children kiss the baby welcome. The childminder encourages them to show concern for each other as she asks the older children to fetch a toy for the baby or sing to her while she is being changed.

Children under three are cared for appropriately. The childminder has the "Birth to three matters" framework pack and refers to it. However opportunities for babies to explore and investigate with natural materials are limited.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met well because the childminder knows them well and their stage of development. She is aware of what each child is capable of and what they like to do. Children are learning about the wider world as resources reflect diversity and the childminder is aware of the need to keep developing in this area. Children with special needs are given appropriate support and fully included in the setting. She will raise any concerns with parents and is sensitive to their feelings. Children behave well because they are given consistent guidelines. The childminder asks them kindly when she needs them to do something differently and checks that they understand. Children respond positively. The childminder encourages children to say "please" and "thank you" and provides a good role model. Strategies for managing behaviour are shared with parents when they start.

Children are cared for effectively because there is a good partnership with parents. Parents are made to feel welcome when they drop children off. Most information about the children's care is shared verbally but the childminder will be guided by what the parents want and how they choose to share information. Parents value the friendly relationship and are happy with the care their children receive. A complaints log has not been set up in line with recent changes in regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is a suitable and experienced person to care for children. She has the necessary checks and is currently obtaining checks for other members of the household. The premises are organised well to meet children's needs. They have sufficient room to play and areas where they can be quiet or sleep. The childminder organises her schedule well to give children a range of experiences. She gives parents information on where she is and what she is doing.

Documentation is kept in good order and is maintained in a confidential manner. However, written consent for emergency advice or treatment has not been obtained or written permissions for outings and transport. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop her range of toys for older children. She has resources such as games for older children but currently intends to care for young children only. She was also asked to ensure that parents sign to acknowledge that medicine has been administered. Recent entries in the medication record show that this is now being done.

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 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):

- promote children's health by ensuring children can access their drinks independently, by making fresh drinking water readily accessible and by giving explanations to children about healthy eating
- improve documentation by obtaining written permission for outings and transport, written consent for emergency treatment or advice and by setting up a complaints log.

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