



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256430
Inspection date	22 March 2006
Inspector	Andrea Caroline Snowden

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?

This childminder has been registered since 1989. She lives with her husband in Norwich and there are parks, pre-schools and shops within walking distance of the house. The ground floor is used for childminding purposes with the first floor being excluded at the request of the childminder. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor activities.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children at any one time. There are currently seven children on roll, attending on a part-time basis. Of these children, three are aged over eight years.

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 well promoted and the childminder takes positive steps to ensure this. She helps them understand why effective hygiene standards are essential. They talk about washing hands to reduce the risk of spreading germs to other children. There are effective measures in place to minimise the risk of infection, for example the childminder uses disposable gloves when changing nappies and children who have contagious illness are not permitted to attend. The childminder is able to respond to accidents as she has a current first aid certificate and appropriate equipment. Parents have given permission for the childminder to treat their child in an emergency, but it is not clear that this is in cases where outside medical assistance is required and the childminder can not contact parents.

Children enjoy very good opportunities to learn about healthy eating lifestyles. The childminder offers them plenty of fresh fruit and raw vegetables at snack time and children are observed happily eating a bunch of grapes having been refused sweets. Children visit local shops to buy fruit and vegetables, and enjoy cooking with the childminder. For example they enjoy baking Italian bread and eating this for snack. Discussion about healthy eating is promoted by resources such as the '5 A Day' chart on the fridge.

Children love to play outdoors. They move between outdoors and indoors at their choice and have space to whiz around on trikes, play with water or do some gardening. In poor weather they stay indoors and do exercises and move to music. They are learning that physical activity is good for their bodies and health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and well cared for in a home which is secure and suitable for them. The childminder's home is warm and welcoming and the children are well settled and confident. They appear to treat it as their own home. The child centred environment has play equipment stored in a manner that older children can make choices and access toys independently. Play equipment is monitored for safety and children are helped to use it without causing injury to themselves or others. For example, they are shown how to use scissors correctly and older children are encouraged to think about little ones before playing with intricate bits and pieces.

The children are able to explore in safety and move around the house confidently, knowing they will come to no harm. This is because the childminder is vigilant about hazards in the home. Children are learning about personal safety when on outings as they discuss traffic danger. The childminder ensures children are escorted safely when out, but has not thought about carrying the children's contact numbers or a first

aid kit in case of an emergency. Fire evacuation procedures have been planned but drills not practised with children. This means that children's safety could be compromised by issues which could have been already addressed through the practise.

Children are protected because the childminder has a sound understanding of her role in child protection issues. She is able to put appropriate procedures into place and has the relevant documentation and contact numbers to maintain children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content with the childminder. Many children have been attending since they were very small and so have developed a very close relationship with her. The childminder is warm and kind and acts as a positive role model for young children. Friendships have formed. The inspector asks one child what she enjoys playing with. The child indicates that it is the other child present and says that they are friends. They play well and share equipment fairly. They are heard giggling and observed instigating their own ideas in play. The childminder further promotes children's social development by taking them to local toddler groups.

The childminder helps children learn new skills. Some have tried knitting and sewing, whilst others have made collage pictures from fabric. Some children like to play the piano. The childminder helps children learn to spell out the letters of their names by using foam letters or fridge magnets. She organises the day so that children have time to play actively, relax or sleep if they need to.

Children's independence is growing quickly with the childminder. They are observed playing with little interaction from the childminder. They select and tidy away toys which are in labelled boxes. They put their own rubbish in the bin, manage their own clothing and sort out a game to play which involves sharing out coloured counters.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are learning about our diverse society. The childminder uses her own experiences and resources and introduces children to different races and cultures. Children frequently hear the childminder speak in her mother tongue. Activities such as making wall displays have helped children learn about similarities and differences in people around the world. The childminder has an excellent selection of books which she uses to help children understand issues such as divorce and bullying. Children access all equipment equally and the childminder ensures every one can join in at their own level and enjoy success.

Children learn right from wrong because the childminder explains to them why behaviour is unacceptable. This encourages them to think about what they have

done and ultimately helps them manage their own behaviour more positively. The childminder creates an environment that encourages children to behave well because good behaviour is praised and approved.

The partnership with parents is good and works effectively to meet the needs of the children. The childminder ensures she gains information from parents about the children's routines so that she can offer continuity of care between their home and hers. There is valuable written information available for parents and the childminder ensures daily liaison which promotes the welfare of their child.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are relaxed in the well organised environment. Space in the home is used effectively to provide children with areas for play, eating and rest and children move around the house as they wish. They are safe because household members have been vetted and they are never left with persons who have not been previously checked. The childminder has an emergency back up plan which means children could be left with another childminder if necessary. The childminder is appropriately qualified and also ensures up to date knowledge and skills are practiced by attending short course training and workshops such as Behaviour Management and Special Needs. This along with reviewing her practice through post inspection action plans ensures children receive good quality care.

The required documentation is in place and maintained to an appropriate standard. This helps support the childminder in caring for children in a positive way which meets the parents' wishes. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to act upon the following: ensure parents give written consent to administer medication, ensure all household members are vetted, improve the toys to ensure they are clean and suitable for use and that they reflect positive images of equality, provide activities which meet children's all round developmental needs and further develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

The childminder has ensured written consent is obtained before giving medicines to children to ensure their health is not compromised and all household members have been vetted ensuring children's safety. The range of toys and equipment has been improved and they are clean and suitable for use by young children. There is equipment available to help children learn about equality. Activities provided meet the needs of the children attending and each day they take part in games, outside play and planned activities which promote their physical, intellectual, social and emotional development.

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):

- ensure parents give written permission for you to seek outside medical treatment or advice in an emergency in the event that you cannot contact them
- further promote children's safety by practising fire drills with them
- consider carrying children's emergency contact numbers and a first aid kit when on outings.

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