



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	251373
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 March 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Mary Gilbert

<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 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 1999. She lives with her husband and 3 children aged 14, 11 and 9 in Beccles, Suffolk. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 5 children at any one time and is currently minding 12 on a part time basis.

The childminder walks to local schools, pre-schools and nursery to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and takes

children to the local library and park.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health is well promoted because the childminder takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection. She encourages children to take the responsibility of meeting their own health needs. For example, she encourages them to fetch and use tissues if they need to blow their noses and reminds them of the need to wash their hands when they have used the toilet and before they eat.

Appropriate measures are taken when children are ill so that their health needs can be met. Clear information is collected from parents when children are registered to ensure the childminder is aware of any specific needs. Parents provide written permission for the childminder to administer medicines or to seek medical treatment or advice. Records are kept of accidents and medication given which are signed by parents. However, these are not completed on an individual basis which could compromise children's confidentiality.

Children enjoy regular varied opportunities for physical exercise. They use a variety of large and small equipment in the garden and go out for walks in the environment, to school, pre-school, the park and to town.

Children are well nourished because the childminder provides them with regular drinks and works with parents to provide food which is nutritious and complies with their dietary needs. Children have their own cups which are easily accessible and refilled as required which ensures they remain hydrated. Children have healthy meals and snacks that promote healthy eating. Children generally bring in food from home for meals and the childminder provides fruit and plain biscuits for snacks. She discusses healthy options with parents and encourages them to send in food which is well balanced. Children always sit to eat together which develops their social skills.

Children have opportunities to rest and sleep according to their needs. Daily routines provide opportunities for children to rest and relax as required.

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

The provision is good.

Children are safe and well cared for in premises that are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. The childminder ensures the environment is safe, well organised and welcoming to children. Children are provided with sufficient space to play freely. Risks to children are minimised by the childminder who is pro-active in ensuring the premises are kept secure. For example, smoke alarms are fitted on both floors and tested to ensure they are maintained in working order. The childminder has well thought out evacuation procedures. However, she has not discussed or practised these with children which could compromise their safety in the event of an

emergency.

Children have access to a wide range of equipment that is suitable and safe. It is well organised to provide children with opportunities to make independent choices. The childminder ensures the toys are clean and safe to use.

Children remain safe on outings. The childminder reminds children about the importance of holding hands when walking and younger children are secured in buggies or on reins.

Children are well protected because the childminder has a clear understanding of her role in child protection. She understands about the procedures with regard to who to report concerns to or to seek advice from.

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

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy in the setting and developing their self-esteem. They respond well to the childminder and use their initiative to make appropriate choices from the provided range of toys and games. The daily routine provides for their needs. For example, they are taken and collected from school, nursery and pre-school. Outings to the local mother and toddler groups enable children to develop their social skills and the activities there provide opportunities to develop their creativity and physical skills. Children are taken to the library where they are encouraged to choose books to take back and share with the childminder and each other.

Children respond well to the childminder who skilfully uses incidental opportunities to extend children's thinking. For example, children choosing a spider game enabled the childminder to extend their recognition of number.

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

The provision is good.

Children are developing good relationships with adults and other children in a setting where the childminder works with parents and carers to meet children's needs and fully include them in the routines of the setting. Children are becoming aware of their own needs and learning to respect the needs of others. Children are able to make choices from the wide range of resources available. The information gathered from parents at registration enables the childminder to include their preferences and likes and dislikes in the daily routines. The childminder knows the children well and ensures that there is no bias in her practice in relation to gender, race or disability.

Children learn to understand responsible behaviour and respect the boundaries set by the childminder. She sets consistent guidelines. For example, children learn not to jump on the furniture and to sit together to eat meals. She talks to the children and encourages them to play together and share their toys.

Children benefit from the supportive relationships built with their parents. She works with them to develop individual settling in processes and a daily exchange of information develops consistency of care and ensures children's needs can be met.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for by the childminder who has a clear understanding of the care standards which ensures they are protected. She ensures children are not left with any person who has not been vetted.

Appropriate child to adult ratios are maintained so that children form firm relationships with the childminder and develop a high level of confidence in her care. Daily routines are developed to meet the needs of the children attending and the childminder provides activities and resources to meet their needs.

Clear records are kept. Although the childminder talks to parents regularly and is verbally informed, the written records are not reviewed regularly to ensure they are up to date which could compromise children's well-being should there be any major changes. Documents are stored confidentially and were available for inspection.

Overall, children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was given two recommendations. The first was to extend her knowledge of child protection issues by obtaining a copy of the booklet 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'. The childminder now has a copy and has gained more knowledge which ensures children are protected if there are suspicions of abuse.

The second recommendation was to develop resources to reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability. As new resources have been purchased the childminder is aware of ensuring that they fulfil this criteria. Books, toys and videos have been purchased with this specifically in mind and she will extend these when possible to ensure children develop their understanding of diversity.

## **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 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):

- review organisation of accident and medication records to ensure they maintain confidentiality
- develop children's understanding of what to do in an emergency
- review child records to ensure they are up to date

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)