



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	250878
Inspection date	12 May 2006
Inspector	Mary Gilbert

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 satisfactory. 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 1986. She lives with her husband and adult son in Ipswich, Suffolk. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding together with the upstairs bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and is currently minding 3.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local park.

The family has a pet rabbit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children remain healthy because the childminder provides a range of activities and follows sound procedures which promotes their well-being. Children have the opportunity to take part in physical activities. For example, they go for walks to the park or play in the garden on a daily basis.

Children learn to develop good hygiene practices. For example, they wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Records of accidents and medication are kept and a first aid kit is readily available. However, the contents are few and have not been recently reviewed which potentially compromises children's well-being in case of an emergency. Most parents give written permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice. If a child becomes ill whilst in the care of the childminder she is able to implement procedures to provide effective care.

Children are adequately nourished as they are provided with food and drink sufficient to their needs. Children remain hydrated as they have regular access to drinks. They have their own cups which are refilled as required. The childminder provides children with lunches. Information is collected from parents to ensure any specific dietary requirements can be fulfilled. Children are encouraged to learn about food which is good for them and are offered healthy options such as fruit and vegetables.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure environment. The children have access to all areas of the ground floor of the property which is organised to provide for children's needs. For example, children can use a table for using play dough or eating, and floor space is used for playing with large construction and cars. The outdoor area is safe and secure and provides children with a safe area to play.

Toys are well stored to encourage children to make independent choices. Some are put out on a daily basis to meet the needs of the children being cared for.

The childminder is proactive in ensuring children's safety whilst in her care. For example, she checks the house and garden before children arrive. An emergency evacuation plan has been thought out and shared with children. Precautions are taken to ensure children are safe when taken out. For example, emergency phone numbers and a first aid kit is taken. Children learn how to keep themselves safe, for example by staying close to the childminder and crossing the road safely.

Children are well protected because the childminder has a clear understanding of her role in child protection and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident, settled and secure in the care of the childminder. They are warmly welcomed into the setting and settle happily to the provided activities. The childminder interacts well with the children in their activities. Daily routines provide variety for children. For example, children meet with others at the local childminding group and visit the library and park. Quieter times are organised through the day to ensure children have opportunities to rest and relax. The childminder encourages children's interests. For example, in providing materials for painting when asked for.

The daily routine provides for children's needs. For example, in taking and collecting from school and ensuring they are well fed. Although children under 3 enjoy the activities provided, they would benefit further from improvements to the planning of activities to ensure they provide for all areas of development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a sense of belonging. They are warmly welcomed by the childminder who encourages them to choose what they would like to do. The childminder knows the children well and works hard to ensure these needs are met. Children have access to some toys which promote positive images of other cultures. The childminder ensures that children are treated with equal respect and there is no discrimination in her practice.

Children respect the boundaries of behaviour set. For example, they sit at the table to eat. They respond well to praise and encouragement and learn to share toys and resources.

Children benefit from positive relationships built between their parents and the childminder. Verbal information is collected before children are cared for, but there is inconsistency in the written records and permissions kept. This potentially compromises the well-being of the children. The childminder informs the parents on a daily basis of the care which takes place.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is supported by effective organisation. Children are cared for by the childminder who has an understanding of child development and the care standards.

The childminder organises her home to meet the needs of the children being cared for. They are provided with a high level of support due to the low number of children being cared for. The registration system is effective, showing arrival and departure times. The house is organised to provide a child-friendly and welcoming environment before the arrival of children and daily routines are developed to meet children's needs.

Some documentation is kept to provide information enabling the childminder to provide effective care. Records are stored effectively to maintain confidentiality, and available for inspection.

Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to do a number of things. Firstly she was required to take a first aid course. This she has completed and will expire on 10.01.2007. She was also required to ensure she had a current public liability insurance. The current one is up to date and will expire on 21.03.2007. Other issues were to develop knowledge and understanding of equal opportunity practice and provide resources to support this. There are a few resources now available, and the childminder has a basic understanding of the diversity of the community and the need to treat all children with equal respect. The final requirement was to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. The childminder has attended a course and has all relevant numbers and information available on the premises.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004.

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):

- review the contents of the first aid kit to ensure they are sufficient and suitable
- ensure details and permissions collected from all parents are consistent and complete
- develop a suitable range of activities for the younger children as explained in the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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