



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	251174
Inspection date	18 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 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 1992. She lives with her husband and six children aged 19, 17, 15, 12 and 11 and baby grandchild in Ipswich Suffolk. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

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

The childminder walks or drives to local nurseries and schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler groups and childminding group. The family has a pet dog.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children remain healthy as they are cared for in a clean and comfortable environment. They participate in a wide range of physical activities. For example, they have daily walks to school or the local park and have regular opportunities to play in the garden.

Children develop independence in looking after their own needs. For example, they learn to put on their own coats and change their shoes. They learn the importance of good hygiene routines by washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Children are able to sleep or rest according to their needs. Should a child become ill whilst in the care of the childminder there are clear procedures to inform parents or to seek medical advice or treatment. Accident and medication records are accurately kept and signed by parents.

Children's dietary needs are well met. The childminder works with parents to ensure children are provided with healthy nutritious food and drink sufficient to their needs. Children learn to make healthy choices, for example, from a variety of fruit and breadsticks at snack times. Drinks are readily available for children to access at all times which ensures they remain hydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure environment. The house and garden are checked regularly and organised well to provide space for different activities. For example, there is a small table in the kitchen where children can sit and eat, and a play room with floor space for large toys and table space for a variety of games.

When children are taken on outings they learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, they learn they must stay close to the childminder and learn they need to hold hands when crossing roads. The childminder takes precautions when taking children out. For example, she ensures they are secured in car seats and risk assesses any new venues she visits. The childminder carries information to easily identify minded children should there be an emergency whilst out.

There is a good range of resources available for children to use. These are well maintained and effectively organised in the play room which encourages children to make independent choices. Children help to look after their resources by tidying away when they have finished and cleaning some of them using a baby bath.

Children are protected by the childminder's clear understanding of child protection issues and the processes which need to be implemented if there is a cause for concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident, happy and settled in the setting. They come in and settle happily, making choices from the wide range of activities provided. For example, young children play with puzzles, soft toys and books. Planned activities each morning through the week provide children with stimulation when out. For example, they attend several toddler groups, visit friends or go to outdoor facilities such as Woodbridge Park.

The childminder interacts well in children's play and asks questions to develop their ideas and interests. She is aware of children's differing levels of development and provides resources and activities at different levels to support their varying needs and extend their interests. Daily routines and activities are well planned to provide for individual children's needs. For example, in ensuring they have opportunities for rest and by taking and collecting them from school or nursery.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's needs are well known by the childminder who works hard to ensure these needs can be met. Children develop a sense of belonging as they are encouraged to be involved in the daily routines. Children respect the behaviour boundaries set by the childminder. For example, children know they have to sit and eat at the table together as a family. Children learn to share toys and resources and play cooperatively together. Children learn about the wider society through planned activities and access to a wide range of resources which promote their understanding.

Children benefit from the development of good relationships between the childminder and their parents. Parents are provided with clear information with regard to the care given before children start. Information is collected and logged effectively. Records are reviewed regularly to ensure ongoing information is up to date and children are provided with consistency of care. Parents are aware of what they need to do to make a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for by the childminder who has a clear understanding of child development and the care standards. The childminder ensures that the children always stay with her and are never left. Most of the adults living in the house have been police checked, although one member of the family has not yet 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. For example, the childminder ensures there are appropriate resources and activities provided to meet the needs of the children present.

Clear records are kept. These are well maintained, shared with parents and reviewed regularly to ensure all information is up to date and accurate. 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 asked to update knowledge and information of child protection issues. She has attended relevant training and has all up to date information readily available.

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 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 all adults over sixteen in household obtain police clearance

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