



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY317366
Inspection date	15 June 2006
Inspector	Lesley Gadd

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and three children aged six, five and three years in Wymondham near Norwich in Norfolk. Most of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding one child over five years in the mornings before school and one under five years two days a week. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has no pets.

The childminder meets with other local childminders as a source of support.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are developing a positive understanding of simple health and hygiene practices. They are prompted to think about what they need to do before having their lunch to ensure their hands are clean and why this is important. Positive messages are reinforced as children watch the childminder wash her hands before preparing meals so that cross-infection is suitably minimised. Children's health is well promoted as the childminder has clear documentation in place to record any accidents or medication administered to children. Written consent from parents to seek emergency medical treatment is in place to ensure children's well-being in an emergency.

Children are generally well nourished. Parents provide food for their younger children which caters for their dietary needs and the childminder has a range of nutritious snacks available including fruit. All children enjoy the social occasion of mealtimes with younger children keen to sit in their high chairs and join the others at the table. Children demonstrate their skills well as they feed themselves enjoying chewing on apricots and other finger foods. The children discuss with the childminder good foods for the body which develops their understanding of healthy eating and the benefits for their growth. Drinks are accessible to children throughout the day to ensure they do not go thirsty, promoting their independence.

Children are able to exercise in the fresh air daily, so that they develop strong bodies to fight infection and stay healthy. Through the use of a good range of outdoor play equipment children develop their physical skills well. They manoeuvre around objects in push along cars and bounce on the small trampoline. Children kick balls with confidence, climb on to the slide and on occasions enjoy exercising to music. All children walk to and from school and the younger children enjoy this daily opportunity to explore the route and practise their walking and running skills. Children are developing an awareness of the need to look after their bodies as they discuss with the childminder why they need to wear suntan cream in hot weather.

Children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs to promote their sense of well-being. Suitable facilities are available to ensure children can rest in comfort and have their own soft toys for reassurance.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn through example and reasoning from the childminder about how to keep safe. Children are gently reminded to pick marbles up off the floor so they do not harm younger children and wear safety straps when travelling in their pushchair. Whilst most safety aspects have been addressed within the home to ensure

children's safety there is no fire blanket present and no insurance is held. This means parents are not fully reassured and children's safety is not wholly guaranteed.

Children are welcomed into the childminder's home and they demonstrate a strong sense of belonging. They know where to put their coat and which room they rest in when they are tired. Children are able to play safely with a wide range of clean, age-appropriate equipment which is checked regularly by the childminder to ensure children's safety. Children enjoy exploring the range of toys. They are keen to help themselves to items they wish to play with from the accessible storage boxes, displaying their independence. Children take safe risks and flex their muscles as they climb up the big slide and move boxes of toys to hide behind them.

Children's protection is considered by the childminder as all members of her household are vetted and children are not released to adults without the parents' consent. She is aware of the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is being ill treated however, she is less clear about whom to contact if she has concerns and is not familiar with current guidance and procedures. This may lead to an unnecessary delay in a child receiving the appropriate support and therefore their safety and protection is not fully assured.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder and are developing a warm relationship with her as they have just started to attend. She makes time to listen and talk with the children, sharing their play to make them aware of her interest in them, as a result they feel secure and self assured. Children offer her pretend tea to drink and she readily finds a missing teddy for the children to put in the pushchair and take for a walk.

All children eagerly join in with an increasing range of play activities that capture their interest and stimulate their imagination. Children competently demonstrate their skills. They show their initiative and use good hand and eye co-ordination as they bang two metal buckets together and enjoy the loud sound created. Children use their imagination as they pretend to be a parent serving food within the play kitchen and show fledgling social skills as they squeal with delight when they share a chasing game with friends. Younger children communicate and make their needs known as they point and use sound. The childminder is encouraging these children to develop language skills as they look and talk about books and she repeats the name of the object the children point towards. All children enjoy opportunities to draw with crayons, splash in the water and drive trucks. Whilst the childminder has thought about the activities available for the children she has limited knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and as such children's all round development is not fully promoted.

The childminder interacts well with the children and gently encourages their thinking through good use of questioning. She asks the children to think about, "how can we get the door on the case open?" A younger child spends a long time making connections and working out the best way to get the case to open smiling with

pleasure when he succeeds and examining the contents with keen interest.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated as individuals and benefit from the childminder showing a keen interest in their personal needs and character. Younger children who are physically active enjoy lots of opportunities to play outside and move around the premises freely to flex their muscles. Children are confident to make choices and eagerly help themselves to refreshments and play equipment. Children are beginning to develop their knowledge about others and the wider world through the childminder's respectful attitude and exploring a range of positive play equipment.

Children behave well as the childminder is an effective role model. They listen and learn from clear explanations given by the childminder and readily rise to the praise and encouragement freely offered. Through the childminder's calm approach minor disputes are quickly resolved as they are supported well in understanding that they need to share and take turns. As a result children are beginning to grasp a strong sense of acceptable social behaviour.

The partnership with parents and carers is sound. Children benefit from the helpful communication between both parties on arrival and departure ensuring the parent feels fully informed about the children's care and activities. Parents comment favourably on the childminder's service particularly at how quickly new children have settled and her warm approach. Some written information is available for parents however, the records held on complaints do not meet current procedural guidance and as such parents are not fully reassured about their children's well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is generally promoted as the childminder has undertaken appropriate training since registration to support her in delivering a positive service to the children and parents who attend. Checks have been completed on persons in regular contact with the children and she supervises them at all times to ensure their safety.

Children use all the available space within the home well and with confidence. Effective organisation prior to children arriving ensures the environment is ready and welcoming which contributes to them settling quickly and engaging in fun age appropriate play activities. Established routines help to maintain children's sense of security. They enjoy regular opportunities to be active in their play, eat in comfort and rest in peaceful surroundings to maintain their well-being.

Children are generally safeguarded as the childminder provides some relevant information giving details of her approach to the children's care. A daily register is maintained and all records held are stored appropriately to maintain confidentiality. However, the childminder is not fully aware of all her responsibilities under the

National Standards and as such her documentation and approach to safety matters does not comply with current procedures and guidance. As a result parents are not fully assured and children's welfare is not entirely protected.

Overall the needs of the children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made to 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):

- improve the safety of the children by providing a fire blanket and carrying public liability insurance
- update knowledge of current child protection procedures and guidance, ensuring detail is held of whom to contact should there be concerns about a child's protection
- improve outcomes for children under three years of age by developing knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- update complaints procedures and records held to fully comply with current National Standards.

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