



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256310
Inspection date	04 December 2006
Inspector	Christine Ann London
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 outstanding. 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 1995. She lives with her husband, who is also a registered childminder and their three children aged eight, 13 and 18 in a village close to Norwich, Norfolk. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding 12 children under eight on a part-time basis, including before and after school age children. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a dog.

The childminder is a member of the local childminding group and a member of the National Childminding Association. She is also a tutor for the Norfolk County Childminding Association, regularly tutoring both registering and registered childminders, she is a crèche leader for local groups and training courses.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive because the childminder has a highly effective approach to health and hygiene. Thorough procedures and documents are in place to ensure that children's individual needs are consistently, very well met. Accident and medication records are in place, parent's signatures and consents are obtained to ensure parents are well informed. Minor accidents are handled effectively as the childminder uses her knowledge of first aid and ensures a well stocked first aid kit is easily accessible at all times. Children learn about the importance of being healthy through the childminder's skilful support and guidance. For example, they know to wash their hands after using the toilet, playing in the garden and before food and they learn about germs as they talk about keeping themselves clean. Liquid soap and paper towels are used and hygienic disposal of towels and tissues are discussed with the children. The childminder reduces the risk of cross infection by ensuring that her home is always clean and well maintained.

Physical activity is highly regarded and children are able to develop their skills in a wide range of activities on a daily basis. They enjoy activities in the garden, such as football, playing with balls and using riding on toys. Children have regular opportunities to experience fresh air and use their bodies and energy. For example, daily walks to and from school, regular trips to the beach, and use of the various parks and local woods. Young children are developing their independence physically and emotionally. They are active and are becoming increasingly independent, acquiring control over their bodies and new physical skills. For example, young children have sufficient space to practise crawling, pulling themselves up on the sturdy furniture and then walking, to encourage control of body and movements. They attend activities that encourage their physical development such as the local childminder support group where children use additional resources in a controlled environment. Children are placed in cots for sleeping, which promotes their well-being. The travel cots are put up in the lounge or hallway to ensure children have an undisturbed sleep. Individual bedding is used for the different children to prevent the spread of infection and cross contamination. Older children fulfil their own needs with regard to rest, they can relax comfortably on the settees in the lounge.

Children benefit from good nutrition and understand the benefits of a healthy diet. The older children's awareness of the importance of healthy eating is promoted through discussion and cooking activities such as making homemade pizzas. They also help to make the food for the picnics they have in the school holidays. They enjoy an excellent range of fresh food prepared by the childminder for all their snacks and meals. A weekly menu is shared with parents to ensure children are given a well balanced diet to promote their growth and development. Home made meals provided by the childminder include the use of fresh meat, fish and vegetables. The childminder is happy and confident to meet individual dietary requirements of which she has obtained clear information from parents. She works closely with the parents to ensure that these requirements are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a warm, homely environment. The childminder has an excellent understanding of safety issues. Children have space to move around safely and freely as she has minimised risks to keep them free from harm. All children have access to a superb range of quality toys and resources which are suitable for their ages and stages of development. Resources have been carefully chosen to support children's play and are regularly checked for hygiene and safety and continue to be safe for children to use. All children readily help themselves from the highly organised selection of interesting play equipment so they can follow their own interests.

Children's safety is actively promoted as the childminder gives priority to maintaining a safe environment for children both at home and on outings. Children learn about danger as the childminder helps them to understand how to keep themselves safe. They learn about road safety as they cross the road on their daily trips to and from school and discuss 'stranger danger' with the childminder. As a consequence, they are learning to take some responsibility for their personal safety and show consideration for others. They practise fire evacuation regularly to ensure children are familiar with the procedure they would follow in the event of an emergency to maintain their safety within the home.

All required documents and procedures are in place and are consistently maintained to safeguard children's welfare. Children are very well protected as the childminder has a clear understanding of child protection and has attended training to update her knowledge and inform her practice. Children are closely monitored at all times and the childminder gives top priority to their welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has an exceptional understanding of child development which enables her to offer flexible, high quality care, which is suited to each child. Children enjoy an extensive range of activities, which contributes to their creativity and imagination, such as singing songs and making music, making cakes and pizzas; painting and making individual creations for Christmas.

Children display high levels of confidence in their daily activities and are developing very good independence skills, as they busy themselves and become absorbed in their activities. Their early communication skills are extremely well supported through high quality interaction with the childminder as they enthusiastically talk about what they are doing. They listen to the story of the farm animals and enjoy the sound effects used to bring the story alive. Children are well motivated as they participate in the discussion about the noises the animals make and where they are found on the page. Children make positive relationships, they play exceptionally well together and are encouraged to consider younger children as they play. The older children are able to begin an activity before school and continue with the project on their return, this encourages children to develop skills of finishing activities and seeing projects through to their end.

The childminder has a very good awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and uses the documents carefully when planning activities to develop children's interests and skills. She uses Tracker books to record the children's achievements and to assess the next stages of development for the children. She shares these books with the parents who in turn share them with school when appropriate. The childminder is skilful in encouraging children to make very good progress in all areas of development. Children participate in a wide range of activities and themes which extend their knowledge. For example, they collect fossils from the beach and make a skeleton of a dinosaur to demonstrate what children might see when they visit museums. Children are able to demonstrate what they know as the childminder uses skilful questioning to make them think. The childminder finds out about the children's skills, interests and needs and builds on this information effectively to help children to fulfil their potential.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs and characters are clearly understood and respected by the childminder. All children are welcomed and included in the provision. The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and to help children understand differences and similarities. For example, children use books and play with characters from different cultures, they acknowledge different festivals like Chinese New Year and Christmas. They taste different foods, make pizzas and enjoy being able to use resources for role play. Children learn to value differences through sensitive discussions, stories and the use of developmentally appropriate resources. They are receptive to the childminder's positive role modelling.

Children's behaviour is exceptional. The childminder has a positive, clear and consistent approach to behaviour management, which means children know what is expected of them and they feel secure. The older children make an active contribution to the house rules which encourages the standards of positive behaviour and helps to create an harmonious environment within the household. Children play very happily together in the childminder's care, they learn to share and take turns as the childminder uses her effective skills to encourage and help them develop their relationships with one another.

The excellent partnerships with parents and carers contributes significantly to the children's care and well-being. The childminder provides detailed information about the service that she provides including her clear, well written policies, daily routines and family details. She has developed a welcome pack for new children to help them to become familiar with the environment, childminder and her family. Progress reports keep parents well informed of their child's achievements and parent responses enable the childminder to review her practice. This ensures that children's care, well-being and development is greatly enhanced. The parents are made aware of the complaints procedure they would follow and a copy of the procedure and the complaints record are included in their welcome pack.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's safety and welfare is maintained by the childminder having a clear understanding of the National Standards. Children's care is greatly enriched by the childminder's enthusiasm, her highly effective organisation of time, space and resources and her committed approach. Consistent routines and effective support ensure children feel a sense of belonging and are part of a bigger family. The childminder is highly motivated and actively seeks and attends regular training opportunities. This ensures she is well informed and able to implement new ideas and childcare practices within the childminding setting. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate.

Children benefit from the childminder's sound and secure knowledge of child development and of her legal responsibilities. All required documentation is in place and regularly reviewed, which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being. The high quality policies and procedures are shared with parents, which means they clearly know about the provision and the care their child receives. Sound procedures are in place for relief care of the children in emergencies. This is covered by another childminder who is known to both the children and their parents, details are included in the policies and procedures documents. Overall the needs of the children attending are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to continue to monitor practice to ensure it remains of high quality. This is continuously being carried out to ensure the high quality of the provision is maintained and that children continue to have their needs met at all times.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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:

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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