



## Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 256661          |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 20 October 2006 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Susan Smith     |
| <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 1998. She lives with her husband who is also a registered childminder, and two children aged 12 and 10 in a house situated in a village near Norwich in Norfolk. The whole childminder's house with the exception of one bedroom are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder works occasionally with her husband and together they are registered to care for a total of six children at anyone time. They are currently minding eight children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools and takes children to the local park.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable home. Their health is promoted because the childminder is well informed about their individual health care matters and all the necessary written consents are in place to support this. The childminder has attended first aid and food hygiene training to ensure she is aware of the correct procedures to follow to promote children's health and prevent the spread of infection. The first aid kit is adequately stocked and easily accessible in an emergency. Children are learning to understand simple good health and hygiene practices through clear instructions to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Children are encouraged to be independent when using the toilet.

Children are well nourished. The childminder takes account of children's individual dietary needs and preferences to provide nutritional home cooked meals. For example, pasta, jacket potatoes, fish fingers all served with vegetables. Alternatively, some parents prefer to supply children's meals which the childminder gives to the children according to their parents' instructions. Meal times are a social occasion with children sitting down to eat together at the table in the conservatory. The childminder provides healthy snacks, for example cheese, crackers, fruit, humus and carrot. Children are learning to understand the importance of having a healthy diet through discussion about eating fruit and vegetables.

Children take part in a good range of physical activities which contribute to a healthy lifestyle, for example, children enjoy regular trips to local play area's and the common. They also enjoy playing in the garden, where they have good opportunities to develop control of their bodies through activities such as ride on toys, playing on the climbing frame and a small trampoline. They have opportunities to develop their fine motor skills through using cause and effect toys, using pencils and painting. Children are encouraged to rest and sleep according to their individual needs.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very safe and secure indoor and outdoor environment. Their risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder supervises their play and takes steps to reduce risks. For example, using safety gates to exclude children from the stairs and all hazardous substances are out of the reach of children. The childminder has devised an emergency escape plan, however, children are not learning to keep themselves safe in an emergency as the escape plan is not practised.

Children have access to a good range of high quality toys and equipment which meet safety standards. All the equipment is clean and well maintained and the childminder supervises children's play to ensure that toys are suitable and used appropriately. Children can select some toys from the storage shelves in the playroom and messy activities usually take place in the conservatory. Children move about freely in the home, independently accessing the rooms where they wish to play.

Children are kept safe on outings because the children know to hold hands or the buggy and the childminder ensures she always takes children's emergency contact details and has a mobile phone. When travelling in the childminder's car, children have seats appropriate to their age and size. Children learn about keeping themselves safe through discussion about road safety.

Children are well protected because the childminder has a excellent understanding of her role and responsibilities in safeguarding children and is able to put procedures into practice. The childminder has all the relevant documentation to hand to enable her to respond quickly. A written child protection statement is shared with parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of stimulating and well thought out activities and play opportunities, helping them enjoy their time at the childminder's and make good all round progress. They enjoy spending time together and have trusting relationships with the childminders and their family.

The children spend their time playing with and alongside each other, they co-operate with each other and take turns with the equipment. Children use their imagination very well as they participate in enacting familiar scenarios, for example, parking cars at the café and talking to their mother on the telephone. Children enjoy lots of positive interaction with the childminder who offers them meaningful support during their activities, for example, giving clear instructions when a child was unsure of how to use the magic painting book.

The childminder is familiar with 'Birth to three matters' and incorporates many aspects of the framework in her good practice. The childminder is very responsive to the children's interests, such as, when children ask her what the joke is on a yogurt, she responds positively by telling them it is not a joke but a challenge, 'you have got to make a noise like a monkey'. Children rise to the challenge and enjoyed making monkey noises and discussing what monkeys may eat. Regular use is made of local amenities, for example, walks to the park which provide children with good opportunities to learn about their community.

Children's self-esteem is developing through the support they receive during their play with the childminder. She shows a genuine interest in the children, talking to them about their home life, interests, achievements and joining in with play and activities. Children are encouraged to talk and use their thinking processes when asked open ended questions such as 'what did you do at playgroup this morning?'. Children enjoy cuddling up to the childminder and listening to their favourite stories.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children develop a strong sense of belonging because they are all valued and included. Children have equal access to toys and equipment that meet their individual needs so they can become confident and independent. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children's

specific needs are met. Children of all ages are widely consulted about what they want to do which enables them to make decisions and to suggest their own ideas.

Children learn about their local environment while on walks or outings to local amenities. They develop their understanding of the wider world through access to an extensive range of resources some reflecting a positive view of diversity. For example, an excellent selection of small world figures depicting people from different races, ages and with disabilities and a sign post in the garden showing the distance needed to be travelled to get to a range of different countries.

The childminder has extensive knowledge, experience and a very positive approach to caring for children with disabilities or learning difficulties, which enables her to meet children's individual needs. Children learn about responsible behaviour through the use of clear boundaries of expected behaviour. The childminder has an excellent understanding of the appropriate strategies to use depending upon children's stage of development and calmly explains to children the consequences of their actions on others. This enables children to develop an understanding of expected behaviour.

Children benefit from the positive partnerships the childminder builds with their parents. All the required documents and consents are in place to ensure children are cared for according to their parents' wishes. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept well informed through individual folders containing policies and detailing their childcare provision. Parents provide positive references praising the childminder for being caring and providing a 'home from home', and for helping them learn new skills. The childminder shares information verbally with parents, either on collection or later in the day via the telephone to ensure their changing needs are met and to provide consistency of care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminders work closely together to successfully organise their home to provide a stimulating and child-friendly environment in which children take part in a wide range of activities to support their care, learning and play. Children are happy and enjoy their time in the setting. They benefit from regular routines which help them feel confident and secure. Space and resources are well-organised to provide a balanced range of stimulating activities. The childminder is experienced and knowledgeable and has attended all the required training to support her registration.

The childminder is aware of the importance of complying with her conditions of registration and her certificate is displayed where it can be seen by parents. The childminder takes overall responsibility for maintaining appropriate records. All the necessary paperwork and documentation to support children's care and welfare needs are in place, to a high standard. Files are stored safely and with due regard to confidentiality. Parents and children benefit from the childminder's excellent information folder which contains policies and procedures, clearly setting out her and her co-minding husband's approach.

Overall children's needs are met.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to make sure the garden was safe for children to play in and to make sure that the contents of the first aid box was checked regularly and sufficiently stocked. The childminder has removed all the hazards from the garden and is now able to provide a safe and stimulating outside area for the children to enjoy. In addition, the first aid box is checked regularly to ensure that it is sufficiently stocked. As a result of action taken, children's care and welfare are enhanced.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection 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:

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 that the fire evacuation procedure is practised with children

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