



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256662
Inspection date	20 October 2006
Inspector	Susan Smith
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 1998. He lives with his wife who is also a registered childminder, and two children aged 12 and nine in a house situated in a village near Norwich in Norfolk. He childminds in a supportive role with his wife. The whole of the childminder's house with the exception of one bedroom is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder works occasionally with his wife 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 satisfactory.

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. 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. The childminder has procedures in place for recording accidents and for administering medication. However, the childminder has failed to ensure that he holds a valid first aid certificate. This means that children may not always receive appropriate care in an emergency.

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. In addition, 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 he 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 sound understanding of his 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 him 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 are happy and have good relationships with the childminder who is caring towards them. Children actively seek his company, for example, children asked the childminder 'come and read to me'. They enjoy playing with the range of toys and resources provided by the childminder. Communication with the children is friendly and frequent, helping them to feel valued and supporting their growing confidence and self-esteem.

The childminder actively engages the children in the activities provided and demonstrates a good awareness of how to encourage their participation and development by using effective questioning techniques. For example, asking children who were looking at a magazine, 'what's in the saucepan, chilli con carne?' to which children enthusiastically reply 'no pancakes'.

Children's self-esteem is developing through the support they receive during their play with the childminder. He shows a genuine interest in the children, talking to them about what they did at school, their home life and joining in with their play and activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children develop a good sense of belonging because they are valued and enjoy activities suitable to their stage of development. They are able to make choices and decisions about what they would like to do. They learn to behave well and understand what is expected of them through consistent expectations and regular routines, such as always sitting at the table for meals and snacks. They learn about responsible behaviour through clear boundaries of expected behaviour and the childminder's use of strategies to promote positive behaviour. They are gently reminded to say 'please' and 'thank you'.

Children's self-esteem is developed as the childminder praises their achievements, for example, telling children "that is a lovely painting". The childminder has a very positive approach to caring for children with disabilities or learning difficulties, which enables him to meet children's individual needs.

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.

Although the responsibility for sharing information with parents lies with his co-childminder, the childminder has a good understanding of the need to work closely with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

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 has attended most of the required training to support his registration, however, he has failed to maintain a first aid qualification. This means that children may not always receive appropriate care in an emergency. Children's well-being is promoted by the well organised records and policies which are shared verbally with parents. Although not responsible for record keeping, the childminder completes records appropriately when required.

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 a first aid qualification is maintained
- practise emergency evacuation procedures.

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