



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY297858
Inspection date	23 June 2005
Inspector	Gill Thornton

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 lives with her 3 children aged 15, 12 and 11 in a small village near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding and one bedroom upstairs for sleeping children. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding 1 child under 5 part time. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children on picnics and to the local park.

The family has three cats, rabbits and a guinea pig.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to learn about personal hygiene because of the importance the childminder places on regular hygiene routines. She ensures they wash their hands regularly particularly before meals and have their own flannel and towel. She follows sound procedures when changing nappies to prevent the spread of infection. Children's health is promoted as the childminder follows the correct procedures for administering medication and obtains parents consent for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They are provided with frequent drinks throughout the day to ensure they are not thirsty. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents to provide healthy meals and snacks, particularly encouraging children to eat plenty of fruit.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities which contribute to a healthy life style. They go for regular walks and take part in activities to help them develop control of their body, for example playing on the swing and slide in the garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a very clean environment. They are kept safe and secure because the childminder has taken steps to minimise most risks, for example, stair gates are fitted where required and a door chain is used to keep the premises secure. However, sharp knives are stored in a drawer potentially accessible to children.

Children's play is closely monitored and supervised to keep them safe and they benefit from a range of safe and suitable toys and resources. Their welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has attended child protection training and knows the correct procedures to follow, which are shared with parents, however existing injuries are not recorded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and well settled and form good relationships with the childminder. They are learning to socialise with other children through regular attendance at toddler group. Children are supported and encouraged by the childminder while they play happily with the stimulating range of toys and resources. They enjoy everyday

routines because the childminder makes everything fun, for example, singing 'Row, row, row the boat' while changing nappies and making eating lunch into a game by 'feeding teddy'.

Children are developing confidence and self esteem because the childminder knows them well and is interested in what they do and say. They listen and respond to books and enjoy exploring a range of activities which contribute to their development, for example, taking part in imaginative play with the childminder and the tea set.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are learning to behave well and understand what is expected of them through regular routines and consistent expectations. They feel valued because the childminder encourages them to make choices, for example, asking whether they would like a banana or yogurt for dessert and gives her undivided attention while supporting their play.

Children develop a sense of belonging and show affection to the childminder because she demonstrates her enjoyment in their achievements, for example clapping, when they correctly name an animal in a book. They are beginning to learn to take turns with support from the childminder. Children are provided with some resources promoting a positive view of the world.

Children benefit from the positive partnerships developed with parents as the childminder follows parent's wishes regarding their children's care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's wellbeing is promoted by well organised records and policies in the form of laminated sheets, which are shared with parents to ensure continuity of care. The childminder makes sure that all the required documentation is in place and up to date and she follows appropriate procedures to promote children's health, safety and development. The childminder has attended all the required training except first aid, due of a lack of spaces, although she has applied for a place on the next available course.

Excellent adult:child ratios positively support children's care, learning and play. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report

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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 sharp knives are inaccessible to children
- record children's existing injuries

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