



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY275601
Inspection date	24 October 2006
Inspector	Nicola Mary Eileen Matthews
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 2003. She lives with her parents and sister in Sudbury, Suffolk. The whole ground floor and two bedrooms of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder works with another registered childminder and they have joint responsibility for the childminding practice. This childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time of whom one may be under one year. Together they are currently minding nine children under five on a part-time basis and two children over five before and after school. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. The family have two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted well and cross infection is effectively minimised as the childminder follows excellent health and hygiene procedures. They are cared for in a warm and very clean home where children learn the importance of washing their hands after toileting and before meals. Children use individual flannels in the bathroom and enjoy cleaning their teeth after lunch each day which promotes their understanding of a healthy life style. They are learning healthy practices such as flushing the toilet after use, as the childminder makes it fun. Their minor medical emergencies are treated appropriately as the childminder has successfully completed a first aid course.

Children are well nourished and can access drinks throughout the day. They enjoy healthy, home made lunches such as marmite sandwiches and banana. Children's individual dietary needs are effectively met because their dietary requirements are discussed in detail prior to being looked after. Their food intake is documented clearly in the individual daily diary and shared with the parents when they come to collect their child.

Children's emotional needs are appropriately supported. They have built up a secure relationship with the childminder, who encourages them to express their feelings appropriately and develop respect and kindness towards each other. Children have their home routines acknowledged, such as sleeping and feeding for example, making sure they have their comforter, or an alternative provided, to ensure they settle quickly.

Children have very good opportunities to develop their muscles for balance and coordination as they frequently play on the large equipment at the local park. They enjoy playing in the garden where they can energetically run around and experience fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and welcoming environment where they can move about freely and independently. Their safety is promoted by a childminder who has a very good understanding of safety issues and has effectively made the new home safe. For example, checking every morning, the outside gate is locked and children cannot leave the premise unaccompanied. However, the insurance is not appropriate for transporting minded children in the car which compromises their safety. Children are learning to keep themselves safe when outside as they are encouraged to learn how to safely cross a road and the childminder gently reminds them of potential dangers as they move around the home.

Children independently select activities from a good range of resources which are well maintained and frequently cleaned. They are given resources suitable for their age and stage of development for example, the younger ones are able to complete wooden inset trays and the older ones can play board games. Children safely play in the playroom or lounge. They sleep upstairs using

the two designated bedrooms where they use either a cot or bed and are kept safe as a gate is used across the bedroom door to exclude the stairs and areas which not part of the registration.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted well as the childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection policies and procedures. Children's parents are made aware of the childminder's duty to protect children at a preliminary meeting prior to childminding commencing.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's house. They are confident to be left with her and show good levels of interest in the activities and toys available. Children's independence is developing as they choose from a good selection of toys, and activities which appeals to them and promotes their natural curiosity as learners. They explore their surroundings and enjoy playing imaginatively with the resources such as the rolling out the play dough, using scissors to cut it and pushing and poking it to change the appearance of the surface. Children show good levels of interest in the resources as they explore what they can do with them like manipulating the train track pieces to fit together. They enjoy messy play such as, leaf painting using leaves they have collected when out walking and exploring their natural environment. Older children participate in craft activities and use their creative abilities to make doll faces out of wooden spoons and collages from a range of materials.

Children enjoy a close relationship with the childminder as they receive close contact when looking at books and listening to stories. They receive good support for their language development and counting skills as they are encouraged to point to the pictures and count the objects on the other side of the laminated sheet. Younger children talk confidently to the childminder who replies clearly to promote their early conversational skills. Children are encouraged to make links in their learning using the resources such as the train set and books that depict the same familiar character as Thomas the Tank Engine. They are encouraged to extend their play by the sensitive prompts made by the childminder. For example, as a child starts to move imaginatively when dressing in the feather boa she suggests they dance to music as she activates the compact disc player.

Younger children show good levels of confidence and a sense of belonging as they are comfortable with the routine of the day. They know what is happening so manage their behaviour accordingly such as, sitting on the sofas quietly to watch a favourite programme on the television such as, Big Cook Little Cook.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They demonstrate good levels of trust and confidence in the childminder which ensures they settle quickly and enjoy their time with her. Children who find it difficult to stay benefit from the childminder's effective strategies to encourage a sense of belonging such as, giving them a toy to take home and bring back next

time. Children are developing good independence as they choose what they want to do and are making a contribution to their own personal development as they begin to have control of their needs such as, toileting. Their daily routines and individual needs are recognised through regular discussion and the use of the daily diary with the parents.

Children are learning about similarities and differences in others as they handle a range of play resources that show positive images of a multicultural society like the book about 'potty poems'. They take pride in their achievements such as completing jigsaw puzzles and want to show visitors what they have done. Children are learning about their local community when they visit the park.

Children's behaviour is very good as the childminder has a clear understanding of the appropriate strategies to use to help children understand right from wrong especially sharing and taking turns amicably. Children take responsibility for what they want to play with most of the time and are learning to make social relationships as they play alongside each other independently or in adult organised groups for art and craft.

Children's parents are well informed of the childminder's practice as they are presented with clear and well presented information about her previous training to support her registration. Contracts are discussed and signed to ensure every one is happy with the arrangements. Parents speak highly of the childminder and show their appreciation by giving small presents of chocolates and sending cards of thanks as their child leaves the setting. They are unable to effectively make a complaint to the childminder about her practice as there is no procedure in place to record concerns. Children are looked after appropriately according to their individual needs as their details are documented clearly on the registration forms. Information about the children's day with the childminder is passed on using a daily diary and informal conversations when the children are collected.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's needs are effectively met as the childminder and her co-childminder organise their practice well and have an effective partnership with the parents. They experience a safe, secure and stimulating environment as the childminder uses her knowledge of the individual child to adapt their routines. The childminder uses the space and resources well to promote children's overall development and sense of well-being. The parents are able to clearly see the registration certificate and public liability insurance documents as they are displayed on the kitchen wall. However, this childminder is responsible for the transportation of children and the car documents need updating.

The standard of records is good. Although the childminder is not responsible for some record keeping she completes records appropriately when required; however there is not a record of complaints. Detailed contracts are used to ensure everybody's expectations are recognised. Children's personal details are recorded and confidentially stored. This ensures each child is treated as an individual. The childminder has attended the relevant training to support her registration. Overall, the range of children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to keep an accurate record of attendances and practice the evacuation procedure. These have been successfully implemented ensuring the children's safety.

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 actions 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):

- obtain appropriate car insurance for transporting minded children
- keep a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken.

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