



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY336243
Inspection date	15 January 2007
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 satisfactory. 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 2006. She lives with her husband and two children, aged five and one, near Ipswich in Suffolk. The whole of the property is used for childminding and 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 four children all on a part-time basis.

The childminder takes and collects children from local schools, pre-schools and nursery. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local library and park.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family has two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable home, where they are learning to follow simple hygiene practices through reminders by the childminder to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. The childminder follows parents' wishes regarding their children's meals and provides cold lunches and cooked evening meals as required, featuring home grown fruit and vegetables.

The childminder has attended first aid training and an appropriately stocked first aid kit is easily accessible. However, she has not obtained prior written consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment, consequently children may not receive prompt attention in an emergency. The childminder requests information from parents on children's individual health care needs and she is aware of the procedures for recording accidents and administering medication. Children are protected from the spread of illness as the childminder has an appropriate policy in place, which she shares with parents, about the exclusion of children if they are ill.

Young children have space indoors to practise their physical skills in safety. Children play in the garden during the summer using an appropriate range of equipment and they sometimes visit the local park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure indoor environment where they move about freely and independently. The childminder has taken steps to reduce their risk of accidental injury, for example, using safety gates to exclude children from the stairs and the kitchen. The premises are secure and children cannot leave them unsupervised. During the winter children do not usually play in the garden, which contains some potential hazards including standing water in containers in the vegetable garden and the lid on the water butt by the play house is not securely fastened. There is a large trampoline in the garden fitted with a safety cage, the childminder requests parents' verbal consent for children to use it following the manufacturer's guidelines.

Children use safe and appropriate toys which are mainly stored in accessible boxes in the conservatory and they are able to choose from a range of games and puzzles kept in a cupboard in the living room. Children are kept safe on outings and when walking to school, babies and young children are strapped into buggies and the childminder discusses road safety with older children. Fire safety precautions are in place and a detailed emergency evacuation plan is displayed by the front door.

Children are protected as the childminder has some awareness of her role in safeguarding children and she has a confirmed place on child protection training to ensure she is aware of the correct procedures to follow if she has a concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and settled in the childminder's home. They have access to an appropriate range of toys and they play together happily interacting and copying each other, for example, when using the soft skittles. The children enjoy doing puzzles and operating sound and effect toys but without the childminder's support their play can become somewhat repetitive and without purpose.

Children have opportunities to develop their social skills at the local parent and toddler group and they enjoy activities such as having picnics in the garden during the summer. Older children choose to sit at the table drawing and colouring together when they get in from school and the children enjoyed making decorations at Christmas. However, children are not always provided with activities and play opportunities which fully stimulate and motivate them to develop their natural curiosity as learners.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a sense of belonging because they are included and have equal access to toys and equipment which meets their individual needs, so they can become confident and independent. Children become aware of the wider world through access to resources such as dolls and small world figures promoting a positive view of diversity.

Children are generally well behaved and polite in response to the childminder's clear boundaries of expected behaviour. Information is shared verbally with parents on collection to keep them informed about their children's day and to ensure their changing needs are met. Most of the required documentation is in place to ensure parents are informed about the childminder's policies and procedures. Parents appreciate the flexible care and enjoy peace of mind knowing their children are well cared for.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her home to provide a child-friendly environment with the required facilities to support children's care, welfare and play. The childminder is aware of the importance of meeting her conditions of registration and she has attended the mandatory training to support her registration. Most of the required documentation and consents are in place to support children's welfare. However, the attendance register does not reflect children's actual hours of attendance on a daily basis. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 satisfactory. 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):

- request prior written consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure hazards in the garden are made safe or inaccessible to children, in particular the vegetable growing area and the water butt by play house
- ensure children receive appropriate support during their play and are provided with activities and play opportunities which fully stimulate and motivate them
- ensure an accurate record is maintained of children's actual hours of attendance on a daily basis.

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