



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY299401
Inspection date	22 July 2005
Inspector	Mary Gilbert

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in January 2005. She lives with her partner and three children aged fourteen, four and one in Carlton Colville, Lowestoft, Suffolk. The whole of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school and nursery. She attends parent and toddler groups and regularly takes children to the local park and adventure play area.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of two children at any one time and is currently minding three children all of whom attend on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a suitable range of activities which promote their good health. They go out for walks to the park and on the beach. They spend time playing in the garden using toys which support their physical development.

Children are taught the importance of good hygiene routines through handwashing before eating and after using the toilet. Should a child be unwell whilst in the care of the childminder there are processes in place to inform parents. However, currently there is no written parental permission to seek medical advice or treatment or to administer medicines.

Children's dietary needs are met. The childminder works with parents to ensure adequate food is provided for the children. Children bring their own packed lunches and snacks but the childminder will also provide extra snacks of fruit if necessary. Children are able to access drinks at all times and are reminded of the need to drink.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment. Areas are checked to ensure safety and security is maintained. Children are adequately monitored to ensure their safety when taken out, walking or in the car. However, there is currently no written permission to take children out or in the car.

Children have access to a wide range of resources which are organised to provide children with independent choice. All resources are checked and maintained to ensure they are safe for children to use.

Children are protected as the childminder has relevant contact numbers to call if child abuse is suspected. However, there is a need to further develop understanding of child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled. They cooperate well when playing together and learning how to share. For example, children develop imaginative play through sharing and using available resources creatively. Planned activities provide children with a range of stimulating experiences throughout the week. For example, children attend a soft play activity centre and also local toddler groups. Some activities are planned within the house at specific times, for example, messy play and creative activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by the childminder who works with parents to meet individual needs. Clear information is collected at time of placement and updated regularly to ensure children's needs are met.

Children understand the boundaries of behaviour expected, for example, they know they should not jump on the settee. They respond well to the childminder who uses praise and encouragement when speaking to children and interacts well to extend their play activities. For example, developing their role play ideas.

Children have independent access to the resources provided. However, these are limited in developing children's understanding of other cultures, ethnic groups or disabilities.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's well-being is well promoted by the adult-child ratio which supports children's care, learning and play. The environment is used effectively to provide areas for physical play, creative activities, quiet activities and rest times to meet the needs of individual children. Records show when children are present. However, these are completed in advance and not when children arrive and depart.

Documentation supports children's care. Confidentiality is maintained through the storage of records. Records are regularly updated to ensure changes in children's needs are monitored and implemented where necessary.

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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The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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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):

- develop a system to log times of arrival and departure of children
- obtain written permission from parents with regard to seeking emergency medical treatment or advice, administering medicines and taking children out
- develop a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures.

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