



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	250930
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 March 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Sally Ann Hubbard
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 has been registered since 1992. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a small village near to the town of Thetford. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding 12 children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. She also provides care for children over eight. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children; she sometimes takes children for walks to the nearby park or on other outings. The childminder keeps two cats as a pets.

The childminder supports some children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She also supports those who speak English as an additional language, although there are none attending at present. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's health is appropriately promoted because the childminder has good hygiene practices. They are always encouraged to wash their hands before they eat, after toileting or handling the pets. Children learn why it is important to wash their hands as the childminder talks to them about germs and she teaches them how to wash their hands properly using soap. Children are suitably protected from any risk of cross-infection and illness as they do not attend if they are sick. This is discussed verbally with parents so they are aware this is the childminder's policy. However as there is nothing written down for parents therefore misunderstandings may occur at times.

Children's medical needs are suitably met and the childminder can respond appropriately to accidents because she is trained to administer first aid. An appropriately stocked first aid box is readily available and suitable records are in place for medicine administration and accidents. In addition she has permission to seek emergency medical advice in place for all children so she can deal with a more serious accident or medical emergency in an appropriate way.

Children enjoy a variety of snacks which are usually provided by parents, in addition the childminder always has fruit available if they want it. They can have a drink whenever they feel thirsty as their drinks are within their reach and readily available to them. Children benefit from having a good range of outdoor play facilities in the garden area. They also enjoy going for walks to the nearby park and on other outings with the childminder, such as to the soft play area in the local town or to the park across the road.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children and parents are welcomed into the childminder's home; she gets some toys and resources ready for them. Photographs of children playing and other information is displayed on the kitchen door which also makes it welcoming and inviting. The childminder keeps the premises clean and safe for children, for example, she cleans the floors daily before children arrive. Children enjoy a good range and selection of toys, activities and other equipment. These are readily accessible to children as some are stored at their level enabling them to choose what they want to do. The childminder checks her toys and resources regularly to make sure they are safe and appropriate for the ages of children she is looking after.

Children are protected whilst at the childminder's house because the door is locked securely to prevent children leaving unaccompanied. They are well supervised at all times to prevent accidents occurring as they play. An appropriate emergency evacuation drill is in place, however, the childminder has not practised this to ensure she can get everyone out of the house safely should an emergency occur. Children learn how to keep themselves safe when they go out with the childminder because she teaches them about road safety and how to cross the road. She also protects them from the harmful effects of the sun by using lotion.

Children's welfare is further protected because the childminder has good knowledge and awareness of child protection issues and she knows what signs and symptoms to look for. She has undertaken a recent training course to update her knowledge. She keeps the referral details and contact number readily available and the protection of the children in her care is her main priority.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are well settled, confident and feel relaxed, comfortable and at home in the childminder's house. The childminder enjoys playing with the children. They feel secure because she has a gentle manner and talks to the children as she plays with them. Children have a good relationship with the childminder and interact well with her. They have activities and resources that the childminder knows they will enjoy because she gets to know the children very well. For example, as the children particularly like music at the moment she has bought some extra musical instruments for them to play with. Children are appropriately supported as they play, the childminder lies on the floor to play with them. She encourages them to get the most from the activities, asking questions, helping them to learn as they play and have fun.

Children are learning to be independent as they are encouraged to help clear away toys before they select something different to play with. They benefit from having a good range of toys, games and activities which help them develop and make progress in all areas, for example, they have role play resources, creative play, puzzles, books and opportunities to be physically active as well as finding out about the local area when out and about with the childminder. The childminder is beginning to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to effectively support the development of the younger children in her care.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children all enjoy the same opportunities at the childminder's house and learn to accept others. They all play with any of the available toys and resources and take part in the activities on offer. The childminder ensures she talks to parents regularly and finds out sufficient information about children. This enables her to effectively care for them and meet their needs on a day-to-day basis. The childminder is aware and can recognise that children may have learning difficulties or disabilities and she has experience of caring for them. If she has any concerns about how a child is developing she would first discuss these with parents, they would then work together to meet the child's needs.

Children behave well at the childminder's house because she provides them with a good role model. They have sufficient activities so that they are stimulated and well occupied. Children learn what behaviour is expected because they are given praise and appropriate boundaries. The childminder always discusses behaviour with parents, however she has no formal agreement in place detailing how she will manage children's behaviour.

The childminder develops good relationships with parents and carers. She keeps clear records for each child and takes time to get to know parents and children well so that she can provide appropriate care and meet their needs. She exchanges information on a daily basis so that she can continue to meet children's needs. Parents know how to make any concerns known and the childminder informed them that she was going to be inspected. Parents have completed a survey and give very positive comments about the service she provides. For example, they say the childminder provides 'good quality care', 'she is friendly and flexible' and 'extremely well liked by all the children'.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare is appropriately safeguarded as the childminder and all adults in the house have had checks to ensure they are suitable. The childminder ensures children are always supervised by her and not left alone with anyone who hasn't been vetted. Children benefit because the childminder is appropriately qualified. She has attended further training to help her develop her knowledge and skills, for example, child protection training. She organises her space to provide different areas for activities and the resources are accessible to children.

The childminder keeps the required records that contribute to children's health and wellbeing. Her records are readily accessible when needed. She is aware that she needs to inform Ofsted of any significant changes. She provides a good quality service for children and their parents and has a good knowledge and understanding of the standards and how she can meet them. However she does not have written policies in place to further support her practice. She is proactive in seeking the views of parents as to the quality of the care she provides and where she can make improvements. Overall children's needs are met.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure the record of medicines administered is fully completed and to ensure the first aid box is adequately stocked. The childminder now has a medicine record book in place enabling her to record appropriate information and she has purchased a new first aid box. This enables her to meet children's medical needs and deal appropriately with any minor accidents to children.

She was also asked to improve her knowledge of child protection procedures and the relevant contacts. She has recently attended a training course for child protection and has all the up to date contact information readily available, ensuring she can protect children in her care.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

A concern was raised with Ofsted regarding lack of supervision of children and a significant incident had not been reported to Ofsted. This relates to National Standards 13 (Child Protection) and 14 (Documentation - Notification of changes). An Ofsted childcare inspector conducted an announced visit on 16 August 2006. There was evidence to suggest a breach of National Standards 13 and 14, therefore a notice of actions to improve was issued. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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):

- practise the emergency evacuation plan
- devise a method for agreeing the methods used to manage children's behaviour with parents
- devise a written policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)