



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY281863
Inspection date	29 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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and 11 in Ipswich. The whole of the property, except one bedroom, is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding one child aged under five on a full-time basis and two children aged over five part-time after school.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends a local childminding group and local toddler groups. The family has one cat.

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 beginning to follow appropriate health and hygiene practices. The childminder follows parents' wishes regarding their children's food and provides whatever meals are required, dependent on the children's hours of attendance.

Children's health is promoted because the childminder requests information about their health care needs on their registration forms and she obtains consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. The childminder keeps written records of any accidents which are countersigned by parents and she follows sound procedures to obtain parents' consent before administering any medication and accurately records the time and date administered. An adequately stocked first aid kit is available, however, the childminder's first aid certificate expired three months ago, consequently she does not have up to date knowledge of first aid which could put children at risk in the event of a medical emergency.

The childminder provides young children with space indoors to practise their physical skills in safety. Children play in the garden in the summer and they sometimes visit the local park in fine weather.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe environment where the childminder has taken some steps to reduce risks to children, for example, fitting cupboard and drawer locks in the kitchen. However, the low-level glass panel in the back door is not safety glass and so poses a potential hazard to children. The house and garden are secure and children cannot leave them unsupervised, however, the garden is currently unsafe for children as it contains hazardous items.

Children have access to reasonable range of toys and equipment that meet safety standards. The childminder supervises children's play to ensure they are safe and that toys are used appropriately. Fire safety precautions are in place and the childminder follows appropriate procedures to ensure children are kept safe on outings and when walking to school. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder is conscious of her responsibilities to protect children and 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.

The childminder is caring towards the children and speaks to them in their own language to help them settle. They enjoy watching television until they feel confident enough to get down and play, exploring toys such as small world figures and bricks on the living room floor. The childminder knows the children well and responds with interest to their play.

Children have regular opportunities to develop their social skills at local children's groups and enjoy playing with the childminder's own children. The childminder takes children on outings with the local childminding group, for example, to the zoo or to soft play centres.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a sense of belonging because the childminder knows them and their families well and ensures they are all valued and included. Children have good relationships with the childminder who responds sensitively to them and respects their individual personalities. Children become aware of the wider world through discussions and sharing books and bi-lingual DVDs.

Children learn about responsible behaviour because the childminder is a good role model and has an understanding of appropriate strategies. The childminder recognises the importance of working in partnership with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met. The required documentation and consents are in place to ensure children are cared for according to their parents' wishes. However, the childminder does not have a system in place for sharing complaints with parents to keep them fully informed about her childcare practice. Parents praise the multicultural aspects of the care provided. Information is shared verbally to ensure children's changing needs are met and to provide consistency of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All the required documentation is in place to support the welfare of the children attending and a register is maintained showing children's daily hours of attendance. The childminder recognises the importance of complying with her conditions of registration. However, at the time of inspection she failed to maintain a current first aid certificate which is a breach of regulations.

The childminder organises her home to provide children with satisfactory activities to support their care, learning and play. Children benefit from regular routines to help them feel confident and secure. The childminder is flexible regarding the hours she is available for minding to fit in with parents' patterns of shift work. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At her last inspection the childminder agreed to work within her registration limits and finished the contract with a family to do this. She was also asked to make safe of inaccessible hazards indoors. The childminder has since fitted cupboard and drawer locks in the kitchen and ensures any hazardous items are out of children's reach. She originally covered the low-level glass panel on the back door with adhesive film but this is no longer in place and still poses a potential risk to children. She was also agreed to ensure the outside drain was covered and that the garden fencing was made secure. The drain is now covered, however, the fencing is in need of further repair.

The childminder also agreed to ensure the contents of the first aid kit kept were checked regularly and to obtain written permission from parents before administering medication. The

first aid kit is appropriately stocked and the childminder will check the contents against the list given at first aid training and she always obtains written consent before administering medication, so enhancing children's welfare.

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 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):

- ensure hazards in the back garden are made safe or inaccessible to children
- ensure the low-level glass panel in the back door is made safe or inaccessible to children
- develop a system of recording complaints
- ensure a current first aid certificate is maintained.

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