



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	256456
<b>Inspection date</b>	23 January 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Karen Pretty
<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 was registered in June 1996. She lives with her husband, two adult daughters and teenage son. The family lives in a detached property in a village near to Great Yarmouth. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. A small rear yard is used for outside play with a large enclosed garden also available.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding nine children on a part-time basis. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local toy library and park. The family has a cat.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable home where they are encouraged to follow simple good health and hygiene practices. Children are given opportunities to develop their own knowledge about personal hygiene as they are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Their health is promoted as the childminder obtains appropriate information from parents about children's individual health care needs and all the written consents are in place to support this. The childminder has attended first aid training and has accurate procedures in place to record accidents. Children are protected from the spread of illness as the childminder has a clear policy in place, which she shares with parents, about the exclusion of children if they are ill.

Children are learning about healthy eating as the childminder works with parents to support her views and provide their children with healthy snacks, which feature fruit and vegetables. All meals provided by parents are stored appropriately. Children have constant access to drinks to ensure they do not become dehydrated. Older children are able to pour their own drinks. All children are able to rest and sleep according to their individual needs, travel cots are available for younger children and a fold out chair bed for older children. These can be placed in a quiet area of the house, for example, the downstairs bedroom or lounge.

Children enjoy a wide range of physical play experiences that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They regularly play in the garden with access to an extensive range of equipment which includes footballs, bikes, ride-on toys and a large trampoline. Babies have plenty of space indoors to pull themselves up and move around safely, the childminder provides a range of cause and effect toys to promote their physical development. Children frequently go with the childminder to the local park which gives them further opportunity to have the freedom to run around in the 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 secure environment, where they can move around freely and independently under the childminder's close supervision. Children's safety is enhanced and the risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder has taken effective steps to reduce possible risks. For example, fitting cupboard locks and using safety gates to exclude children from the stairs. Fire safety precautions are in place and the childminder has developed an emergency evacuation procedure to follow. This is practised with the children to ensure that they have knowledge about what to do in the event of a fire.

Children have access to a stimulating range of high quality toys and equipment that meet safety standards. These are mainly stored in the kitchen and hall. Further equipment is available in a shed outside which the childminder uses to rotate with the toys available indoors, providing a range appropriate to the ages and interests of children attending. The childminder cleans and checks toys and equipment regularly. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe on

outings as the childminder teaches them about road safety and they know to stay close. The childminder also uses buggies, reins and appropriate car seats to keep children safe.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted appropriately because the childminder has attended child protection training. She is aware of the local safeguarding children procedures to follow and who to contact should she have any concerns about the children in her care.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and well settled in the welcoming environment. They enjoy spending time exploring the stimulating range of toys and equipment provided by the childminder based on her accurate knowledge of child development. The childminder gets down to the children's level and joins in with their play, supporting the development of their language and curiosity with open ended questions. This ensures children's learning is consolidated and extended. Each day they normally go out either to the park, toy library or local children's groups, where children have good opportunities to develop their social skills.

Children develop their confidence as the childminder knows them well and praises their achievements, for example, when labelling items of clothing or moving around the furniture on a ride-on toy. Children are encouraged to take part in a variety of activities which ensures all areas of children's development are promoted and met. Children have access to a large selection of books which is helping them to develop a love of books, they also provide opportunities for them to have quiet times with the childminder. Children confidently ask questions and use their initiative, for example, asking for snacks or independently accessing other areas of the house to select toys.

The childminder is keen to further develop her knowledge and practice with children under three. She is considering accessing training delivered through her local partnership on 'Birth to three matters'.

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

The provision is good.

Children develop a good sense of belonging as the childminder ensures they are all valued and included. Children have equal access to toys and equipment that meet their individual needs, this helps them to become confident and independent. Children become aware of the wider world through access to resources such as small world figures and dolls promoting a positive view of diversity.

The childminder has a very positive approach to caring for children with additional needs, she works closely with parents to provide the individual care required to promote children's welfare and development. There are very positive references available from parents to support this. She is willing to work with other agencies to further increase her knowledge.

The childminder is calm and consistent and uses appropriate explanations to promote children's understanding of responsible behaviour, this helps them to develop an understanding of the

needs of others. Children benefit from her positive role modelling. There is a clear behaviour management policy, which is shared with parents, to help promote a consistent approach.

Parents are able to share all the childminders written policies and information is provided to ensure children are looked after according to their parents wishes. A positive relationship is built with parents from the beginning, as children spend time settling in with their parents. Information is shared via a daily diary recording children's meals and daily routines to ensure their changing needs are met and to provide continuity of care. The childminder makes parents aware of how they can make a complaint, however, there is not a procedure in place to log complaints that is available to parents on request.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her home to provide a welcoming and child-friendly environment in which children can take part in a wide range of activities to support their care, learning and play. Space and resources are well organised to provide children with a good balance of interesting activities. The childminder follows accurate procedures to promote children's good health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution.

The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards which ensures children are well protected. Appropriate checks are in place to ensure children are cared for by a suitably vetted person and children are never left alone with any person not vetted. The childminder has attended relevant training to support her registration but is keen to develop her knowledge and skills further. Children's needs are met by good adult: child ratios and the children benefit from the individual care and attention given.

Children's well-being is effectively promoted by the documented information kept, this is well organised to support the care and welfare of children. All children's details are kept confidential and the childminder ensures children are cared for in accordance with their parent's wishes.

Overall children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to continue to develop resources to promote positive attitudes towards people with disability. The childminder now has a broad range of resources which reflect disability and her own attitude is constantly positive, this encourages children to reflect this attitude.

### **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 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):

- develop a procedure to log complaints that is available to parents on request.

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)