



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY290569
Inspection date	12 March 2007
Inspector	Lesley Gadd
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 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 2004. She lives with her husband and daughter aged ten years in Debenham in Suffolk. Most of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding up to eight children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The family have a guinea pig, rabbit, dog and cat as pets. The childminder does not provide overnight care.

The childminder 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 well-maintained home. Their good health is promoted because the childminder is well informed about individual health care matters and all the necessary support, in the form of written consents, are in place. The childminder is aware of the correct procedures to follow in case of accidents and these are handled effectively. Children know why it is important to take care of their own personal hygiene and wash their hands after visiting the toilet to prevent them becoming sick.

Children enjoy a nutritious diet to promote their health. Younger children are quick to consume healthy snacks such as raisins, apricots and rice cakes. They reach for their drinking containers to refresh themselves displaying their independence. The childminder uses organic food in her menu to ensure children are offered the best sources of fresh produce. This alongside discussing where food comes from promotes children's understanding about healthy eating and why the body needs good food for growth. Children's individual dietary requirements are discussed with parents before they start to attend to ensure their needs are met.

Children enjoy a good range of physical play experiences that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Easy access to the garden ensures they experience fresh air and exercise daily. They demonstrate their competence when running, kicking balls and shooting down the slide. Children benefit from daily walks to school. Younger children are keen to toddle by themselves with the childminder close at hand to support them and keep them safe. Children are able to explore outside and relish opportunities to splash in the puddles and learn about weather changes in the environment. Children are beginning to develop an idea about why exercise is good for growth. They discuss walking and the benefits for the body.

Children are able to rest when needed to support their sense of well-being. Older children take opportunities to sit quietly relaxing and playing games and younger children have suitable facilities to sleep in comfort.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is given positive consideration by the childminder. Children are well supervised to ensure they are protected from harm and areas inside and outside where they play are monitored daily to identify and reduce potential hazards. Relevant insurance is held, fire precautions are appropriately organised and an accurate register of attendance is held at all times. The main entrance door and garden gates have locks in place to prevent stranger danger and children travel in appropriate restraints in the childminder's car when being transported to ensure their safety.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe and prepare for future independence. They practise road safety routines when walking to school and talk about how they may get out of the house in the event of a fire emergency. Younger children are able to take safe risks and

flex their muscles fostering their confidence. They are able to open large toy boxes and lift out toys they wish to play with being well supervised by the childminder to ensure equipment chosen is safe and

age-appropriate.

Children are emotionally secure because they are warmly welcomed into this safe,

child-centred environment. They show a strong sense of belonging as they know where to place their belongings and have access to a range of safe toys and equipment.

Children's welfare and protection is given generally suitable consideration. They are not left unattended and the childminder does not release children to others without parental permission. Members of the household are vetted and the childminder has a clear understanding of what she needs to do should she have a concern about a child in her care. However child protection guidance held is not up to date and information on whom to contact is not easily available. As a result there could be an unnecessary delay in children receiving immediate support in an emergency.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and secure in the childminder's care. This is achieved as the childminder has spent time getting to know the children and fostering a warm relationship with them all as individuals. The childminder makes time to play with the children supporting their interests and confidence. Children are keen to explore toys and share many activities with the childminder. Children relish the opportunities provided to squish play dough, feed the baby doll and rummage through toy boxes exploring the contents with pleasure. The childminder is quick to praise the children for their efforts and the children beam with delight at their success.

Children competently demonstrate their growing communication skills. Younger children make their needs known as they use single sounds and point to what they want. The childminder responds readily and encourages the children to use language when looking at books and when playing with toys.

Children join in with a broad range of pleasing indoor and outdoor activities that promote their all round development. The childminder has a developing knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and uses this to provide a rich, sensory play experience for younger children. Children are keen to take part in craft activities such as sticking, marking paper with crayons and painting. Children of all ages enjoy imaginative play. Older children make up their own games, dressing up as characters as part of a story and younger children enjoy taking baby dolls for a walk in the pram. Children enjoy driving cars on the 'carpet to town' and building with a range of construction toys showing their design skills. Children demonstrate well developed fine motor skills as they cut card with scissors and hold pencils competently to write letters and draw pictures. Younger children are well supported to make connections and develop their skills and knowledge. Children post bread into a pretend toaster working out how to get

it to pop up and smiling with pleasure at their discovery. Older children like outings in the warmer months to the woods and animal park, taking a picnic and socialising with friends.

Children's achievements are acknowledged by the childminder to promote their self-esteem and sense of self worth. Their pictures are displayed for all to see and parents are kept up to date with what activities the children have enjoyed through a daily discussion and written diary.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children receive a warm welcome and are well respected in the childminder's care. Younger children are encouraged to make cards with messy glue and shiny jewels, promoting their sense of inclusion as they sit with older friends. Children are beginning to learn about the wider world. They have access to a developing range of books and other resources reflecting a positive view of diversity.

The childminder has limited experience of providing care for children with learning difficulties or disabilities however she is aware of children's developmental stages. Consequently she feels able to approach parents if she is concerned about children's progress and obtain appropriate support to ensure children's needs are met.

Children are well behaved. The childminder praises children frequently to encourage acceptable behaviour and uses positive strategies to ensure they grasp a strong sense of right and wrong. Children play together well and are learning to share.

Children benefit from the positive relationships developed with their parents. When families start to attend the childminder's service she ensures, during visits, that they discuss parent's wishes for their children's care. The childminder follows sleeping and feeding patterns from home ensuring familiar routines are followed that promote children's sense of security. A clear daily discussion on arrival and departure ensures that both parties remain informed about the children's daily care and activities. The childminders' registration certificate is displayed and some written detail is available for parents. However, parents are not fully informed about what to do should they have any concerns or complaints about the childminder. As a result the parents cannot be wholly assured about all aspects of the service and their children's well-being in these circumstances.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare is positively supported. The childminder has undertaken recent training in first aid to keep her skills up to date and has started to evaluate her own service to identify where improvements can be made. In this way the childminder is continuing to further develop the quality of the children's care and education.

Children have access to a compact, but inviting, play space. They have opportunities to be active, eat in comfort and take part in games and activities readily. Children select their own toys and make choices about activities as equipment is accessible promoting their independence.

Children have time within the day to play quietly on their own with the childminder and with other children promoting their social skills.

The childminder has a range of appropriate documentation in place to support the children's safety and well-being. Records are held about accidents, medicine administration and contracts are completed with parents. However, child protection and complaints records are not up to date and as a result parents cannot be wholly assured about arrangements for all aspects of their children's care. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to update her first aid training and obtain written permission from parents to seek medical advice in an emergency. The childminder has made good progress on addressing these points to further improve the children's care and safety.

The childminder has attended a twelve hour first aid course and holds a current certificate. Records regarding accident procedures have been updated and include written permission from parents to seek medical advice in an emergency.

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):

- update records held on child protection matters and information for parents about what they can do should they have a complaint about your service.

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