



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY258877 |
| Inspection date | 15 March 2007 |
| Inspector | Deirdra Keating |

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| 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 has been registered since 2003. She lives with her husband and adult son in a detached bungalow in a village near Thetford. The whole of the property excluding one bedroom is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder takes children to the local park.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding ten children. Of these, two attend full time and eight attend on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is satisfactorily promoted through sound procedures. Sufficient measures are taken when providing personal care to protect children from cross-infection. Children receive appropriate care if they become ill or have an accident because the childminder follows correct procedures. Written permission is obtained regarding emergency treatment and any medication requirements. Children who become unwell are made comfortable until they can be collected. The childminder has first aid training and a first aid box is readily available. Subsequently children's health is not compromised in the event of an accident or emergency. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs in a ventilated bedroom. A travel cot is used for younger children who are checked regularly.

Children's dietary needs are sufficiently met. The childminder provides fresh fruit and biscuits. Children's dietary requirements are clearly recorded in written agreements which ensures their individual needs are respected. Packed lunches brought from home are stored in the fridge. Free access to drinks, stored on the kitchen worktop ensure that children remain hydrated at all times. Children have access to fresh air and exercise on most days. A large garden and surfaced area allows children plenty of room to use ride-on toys. Balls and push along toys enable children to develop their physical skills and gain exercise. Regular trips to the park provide exercise and enables children to use some of the equipment available. In warmer weather the childminder is careful to protect children from the sun using hats and sun cream.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe suitable environment that is sufficiently maintained. They can move around independently under the childminders close supervision. The childminder takes steps to minimise most risks, however, a storage unit in the bedroom is not fixed securely to the wall which could compromise children's safety. There is a moderate range of equipment available to promote children's care, learning and play. The organisation of resources allows children to self-select from the large box of toys and request others they cannot reach. The house and garden are kept secure, cupboards are locked and socket covers are in place. A stair gate is fitted to the back door and the childminder minimises most risks to children. Fire prevention equipment is all in place and requirements are met.

Children are taken out with written permission from parents. Dangers such as crossing the road are emphasised to children to encourage them to learn about keeping safe. Safety equipment is used including wrist straps to protect children from the dangers of the road. The childminder supervises children at all times when they are in the garden which is checked to ensure that any hazards are minimised. The childminder has attended child protection training and has relevant contact numbers should a concern arise about a child in her care. A verbal policy is discussed with parents prior to admission and any existing concerns are recorded confidentially.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled in the cosy and welcoming environment. They enjoy spending their time choosing from the range of activities on offer. The childminder gets down to the children's level and joins in with their play. She supports their language development with praise and encouragement and interacts sensitively with their play. Children enjoy a range of activities including construction, play dough and dressing up clothes. Children's creativity is supported through imaginary games and drawing materials. They happily engage in role play using dolls and make imaginary food from construction bricks. The childminder is interested in what the children say and do. She listens carefully to what they have to say and is attentive to their needs. Consequently the children are settled and secure, they approach adults confidently and initiate conversation. Children develop their confidence and self-esteem as the childminder knows them well and enthusiastically praises their achievements. A comfortable and carpeted lounge enables children to relax and watch their favourite television programmes. Children gain some physical skills through the range of activities on offer. They use pens and pencils, manipulate play dough and complete puzzles. Younger children's needs are met by the warm and tactile childminder. Babies are engaged with a range of equipment to promote most aspects of their development. However toys are mainly plastic and do not provide enough stimulation or challenge. The organisation of furniture enables babies to pull themselves up and move around the furniture which promotes their physical development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a sense of belonging as the childminder knows children and their families well and ensures that each child is valued and included. Children are able to make choices about how to spend their time. They have stable and positive relationships with the childminder who clearly respects their individual personalities. Regular discussions with parents ensure that children's likes and dislikes are known and their individual needs are met. Children have equal access to toys and equipment and enjoy some resources that reflect positive images from the wider society.

The childminder has a positive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She has some experience and knowledge and is positive in her approach. The childminder understands the need to provide activities that are inclusive for all children. She has creative solutions to adapt activities to the needs of all the children and work closely with parents. Behavioural expectations are shared with parents prior to admission. The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of behaviour management strategies that are appropriate to the age and stage of the child. A calm and fair approach is taken in a firm but gentle manner. Good behaviour is valued and rewarded with praise and any incidents are shared with parents at the end of the day. Children benefit from the trusting relationships the childminder has with parents. Written agreements from parents ensure that children can be looked after according to their parents wishes. The childminder ensures that information is exchanged verbally at the end of each day to ensure an appropriate response to children's ever changing needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her house to provide a secure environment in which children can access a range of activities which supports their care, learning and play. Space has been reasonably well-organised to provide children with a balance of activities. The childminder follows sufficient procedures to promote children's health, safety and enjoyment. Children are cared for in an environment where all adults are suitable and have had all the necessary checks to ensure children's safety and well-being. The childminder has an adequate understanding of the National Standards and her responsibility to comply with the details of her registration. She has attended the required training to comply with her registration and ensures that her practice meets most requirements. Sufficient documentation ensures that children's well-being is generally promoted. This is stored securely and confidentially. A register is maintained showing children's hours of attendance and all required documentation was available at the time of inspection. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to ensure an appropriate range of resources were available to promote equality and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has developed her resources to include books that reflect diversity and ensures that all children have equal access to the resources and toys. This ensures that children are starting to learn about their differences and similarities and are able to have equality of opportunity.

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):

- develop resources to provide a more extensive range of activities that promote messy play and stimulating experiences for children

- ensure that all risks are minimised to children (this refers to the high shelving unit in the bedroom).

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