

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	251291
Inspection date	18 April 2007
Inspector	Deirdra Keating

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 2001. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a village near Ipswich. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and one upstairs bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding six, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to the park. The family has a pet dog.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties or disabilities. She is a member of an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health is extremely well promoted through policies which are proactively shared with parents. An informative and up to date exclusion policy ensures that children are not at risk of cross-infection. Children understand good hygiene practices as the childminder is extremely consistent in reminding them to wash their hands. The bathroom is very accessible and has appealing toiletries to encourage children with their personal hygiene. Good explanations help children understand about germs. Extremely well thought out procedures are in place to ensure that children receive the best care if they become ill or have an accident. A well stocked first aid kit is readily available and the childminder has an up to date first aid certificate. The childminder accurately records all accidents for parents to sign and subsequently children's health is not compromised.

Children can rest and sleep according to their needs in a comfortable and well ventilated bedroom. A travel cot is available and clean bed linen is provided for each child. Children relish the benefit of daily fresh air which is promoted by the childminder. They walk to school, the local park and have free access to the extremely well kept garden. The children enjoy playing outside where an excellent range of toys and equipment enable them to accomplish new skills out in the fresh air. The children have excellent facilities to gain exercise as the childminder's garden is next door to a park where the children can use the field, or climb on the apparatus. Children's understanding of the healthy fresh food is greatly increased by the provision of healthy and nutritious snacks. These are carefully prepared in the spotlessly clean kitchen where extremely high standards of cleanliness are maintained by the childminder who has an up to date food hygiene certificate. Packed lunches provided by parents are carefully stored at the correct temperature. Children enjoy meal times where the childminder encourages the children to try out new foods. Free access to drinking water ensures that children remain very well hydrated throughout the day. Drinks are encouraged at meal times and after exercise by the childminder who provides colourful and child-friendly bottles for each child. This encourages them to feel at home and have a good sense of belonging

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are kept safe in a clean and cosy environment that is very well-organised to accommodate children's needs. The whole of the spacious ground floor is used for minding. The premises are maintained to a very high standard and arranged to enable children to eat and play together comfortably. Resources and toys are stored well in low-level cupboards in the playroom, this enables children to self-select toys of their choice. Children enjoy a wide range of equipment and toys that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. They play happily with natural resources as they pretend to cook meals for one another. A comprehensive inventory of all resources incorporates maintenance and cleaning routines and consequently equipment is safe and in good condition. Children's safety is maintained well through careful steps taken by the childminder to minimise all potential risks. Daily risk assessments are conducted and the house and garden are secure. Preventative fire measures are taken and discussed with the children to minimise danger from fire and all requirements are in place.

Children are taken out in safe and suitable car seats with written permission from parents. The childminder discusses road safety and other potential dangers with children to help protect them from harm. She has a very good understanding of her role and responsibility in safeguarding children. The childminder has up to date safeguarding training which she renews regularly to maintain her knowledge. A clear policy is shared with parents prior to admission and an incident book is available should the childminder have a concern about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a very good range of play opportunities provided through stimulating toys and activities. They build confidence and self-esteem through close relationships with the childminder who is intuitive of their needs. The childminder regularly attends a number of groups which enhances the children's social skills well. Children confidently interact and ask questions as they ask the childminder to join in their imaginary games. They are motivated to learn and interested in what they do because the childminder provides a wide range of exciting activities. Children enjoy cooking, play dough, art and craft and painting. A good range of equipment allows children to develop their imaginary play well. Wooden instruments enable them to explore different sounds and they play in the playhouse where they enthusiastically recreate roles and experiences.

Children have many opportunities to develop their physical skills. They use ride-on toys where they negotiate space and race up and down. The childminder supports them well as they accomplish new skills such as catching and throwing. Puzzles and sticking and cutting activities ensure they develop good hand-eye coordination. Younger children's needs are met well by the warm and gentle childminder. The 'Birth to three matters' framework is reflected well in the natural and tactile resources available for younger children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are warmly welcomed and made to feel part of the childminders home. The childminder proactively gains information about children's individual needs prior to minding arrangements. This enables her to know children's routines and provide good continuity of care and consequently children are secure and settled. Children have stable and positive relationships with the childminder who clearly respects their individual personalities. New children are settled well with sensitively tailored support and they play confidently with the other children. A clear equal opportunities policy is shared with parents and children all have equal access to toys. Cultural diversity however, is not adequately reflected in the range of toys and activities available.

The childminder has an extremely positive approach to supporting children with learning difficulties or disabilities. She is experienced in supporting individual children and understands the importance of working closely in partnership with parents and carers. The childminder actively researches information regarding learning difficulties or disabilities in order to increase her understanding and quality of care. Routines are creatively adapted to encompass all children's needs, providing children with good equality of opportunity. Children's behaviour is consistently good as there are a few simple rules. The childminder is calm and consistent in her approach using strategies that are appropriate to the age and stage of the child. Good behaviour is rewarded and any other incidents are noted and shared with parents. Parents receive very good

information regarding the childminder's practice. Written agreements detail all children's requirements and ensure that children are looked after according to their parent's wishes. The childminder has an extremely positive working relationship with parents. This is supported by many letters from parents detailing different aspects of her good practice.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are cared for by a dedicated and experienced childminder who organises her home extremely well to provide an excellent balance of activities. Children are very happy and secure as they receive excellent care from the caring and knowledgeable childminder. Correct adult to child ratios are carefully maintained and children are clearly supported and secure. Volunteers have had all necessary checks and the childminder details roles and responsibilities in relation to volunteer placements that are occasionally provided by the local college. Attendance registers are accurately maintained at all times showing children's hours of attendance. The childminder has attended many training courses and is very committed to her ongoing professional development. The children thrive in this well-organised child-friendly environment.

The childminder has an extremely good understanding of the National Standards and her responsibility to comply with these and the details of her registration. Extensive and honest self-evaluation enables the childminder to reflect upon her good practice. Developmental areas have been highlighted and planned for ensuring that the childminders knowledge is relevant and up to date. Recent updates have been extremely well comprehended with all relevant information displayed clearly for parents. Comprehensive documentation that far exceeds requirements is stored securely and confidentially.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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):

- further develop resources that reflect cultural diversity.

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