

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY222448
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 April 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 2003. She lives with her partner and daughter aged seven in Debenham, Suffolk. The whole of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding eight children all on a part-time basis. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group, takes children to the local library, park and on outings. The family have a pet rabbit.

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

## 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 from a very early age. Attractive soap dispensers and fresh towels further encourage children to maintain high levels of personal hygiene. 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 lunches and 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, a travel cot is available within the bedroom with fresh linen for each child. Sleeping children are frequently checked and the childminder works with parents to follow individual children's routines ensuring continuity of care.

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 appropriate range of equipment. 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, using safety gates to exclude children from the stairs and fitting cupboard locks. Fire safety precautions such as a fire blanket and smoke alarms are in place and the childminder has considered how she would escape, however, she needs to practice this plan with the children so everyone is aware 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 dining room, which has a large open space used as the main play area, the childminder cleans and checks toys and equipment regularly. Resources are stored at child height, this enables children to self-select from the attractive boxes. Children are learning about how to keep themselves safe on outings as the childminder teaches them about road safety and they know to stay close. She also uses buggies, reins and appropriate car seats to keep children safe.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder is conscious of her responsibilities to protect children, however, she does not have current information regarding possible signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect to ensure it could be easily recognised.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very relaxed and content in the childminders care. They form very good relationships with her and respond well to her caring and encouraging manner. Children can independently access resources which enables them to self-select and play with toys and equipment according to their preferences. Children's confidence and self-esteem are promoted because the childminder praises their achievements and knows their likes and dislikes. The childminder's accurate knowledge of child development enables her to provide children with a range of activities to suit their needs and interests. She gets down to the children's level and joins in with their play; her open ended questions allow her to extend and consolidate learning. Children are able to enjoy their favourite activities and play imaginatively, for example, using the role play kitchen or feeding their dolls in highchairs after walking them in the pushchairs. Children confidently ask questions and use their initiative to satisfy their curiosity and solve problems.

The childminder reflects aspects of the 'Birth to three matters' framework in her good practice. She encourages young children's early communication skills by patiently listening and responding to their questions so that they know their views are valued. Children enjoy sharing books with the childminder and through her encouragement confidently continue to develop their language and satisfy their curiosity. The childminder is alert to the needs of younger children such as when they are tired, comforting and reassuring them by providing opportunities for them to snuggle in.

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

The provision is good.

Children develop a strong sense of belonging because the childminder knows them and their families well and ensures they are all valued and included. Children have built good relationships with the childminder who responds sensitively to them and respects their individual personalities. All children have equal access to toys and equipment which meets their individual needs so they can become confident and independent. The childminder has several resources reflecting diversity and discusses people's similarities and differences with children, to help them develop an understanding of others.

The childminder has a positive approach and some valuable previous experience regarding caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, she works closely with parents to provide individual care required to promote children's welfare and development. She is willing to work with other agencies to further increase her knowledge and would undertake further training to accommodate an individual child's needs and promote their welfare.

Children learn about responsible behaviour as the childminder is a positive role model and has a good understanding of appropriate managing strategies depending on their stage of development. The childminder deals with behaviour in a calm and consistent manner. She has clear views on managing behaviour, which are shared with parents, to help promote this consistent approach.

Parents are able to share all written policies and procedures and information is provided to parents to ensure children are looked after according to their parents wishes. Information is exchanged verbally to ensure children's changing needs are met and to provide continuity of care. The childminder has good relationships with all parents, they regularly complete questionnaires to ascertain their views and ideas which are then evaluated to improve the services provided. The childminder makes parents aware of how they can make a complaint and is aware of her duty to log complaints, should she ever receive any.

## **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 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 and her responsibility to comply with them and the conditions of her registration, 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 and is still keen to develop her knowledge and skills further. Children's needs are met by good adult to child ratios and the children benefit from the individual care and attention given.

Children's well-being is positively promoted by the documented information kept, this is well organised to ensure children's personal details are kept confidential. A register is maintained, accurately showing children's actual hours of attendance and all the 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 childminder was asked to further develop her knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities in the early years. The childminder has further developed her range of resources which reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability. Children are aware of the wider society as she discusses people's similarities and differences and plans activities to cover a broad range of festivals and celebrations.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Ofsted received a complaint relating to Standard 14: Documentation whereby the childminder had failed to inform Ofsted that a member of the household aged over 16 years had moved out of the premises. This was investigated on the 11 May 2006 and an action was set under Standard 14 to 'ensure Ofsted are informed of any significant events no later than 14 days after the event has occurred'. The provider met the action and remains qualified for registration.

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):

- practise emergency escape plan with the children
- update knowledge to ensure possible signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect could be easily recognised.

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)