



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY233737
Inspection date 12 September 2005
Inspector Glenda Kathleen Field

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 2003. She lives with her husband and three children aged 11, 9 and 7 in Oulton Broad, Suffolk. The premises are close to all local amenities

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children under 8 years at any one time. There are currently 8 children on roll, all aged under 5 years. All attend on a part-time basis. Areas of the home used for childminding are on the ground floor only and consist of a children's playroom, kitchen and toilet facilities. There is an enclosed rear garden for outside play.

Pets kept are 1 cat and dog, rabbits and guinea pigs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to learn about the importance of good hygiene practices through regular routines, such as washing their hands before eating, after using the toilet and playing outside. Their health is maintained because the childminder is well informed about children's health care matters, and knows the correct procedures to follow for administering medication and recording accidents. However, written parental consent for the seeking of any emergency medical advice or treatment has not been obtained. The childminder has a current first aid certificate.

The childminder follows parents' wishes to meet children's individual dietary needs. Children are offered frequent drinks to ensure they are not thirsty and are encouraged to eat healthy snacks, for example, fresh fruit, cheese and yoghurt. Children are encouraged to rest and sleep according to their individual needs.

Children experience a range of physical play opportunities, for example, using ride on toys, see-saw, slide, trampoline and climbing frame. Children are also taken for walks in the local community, for example, to parent and toddler groups, the beach, and library. Visits made using the childminder's car include the Wild Life Park at Kessingland and the Lowestoft Air Show.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and child friendly environment. They have access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which effectively promotes their development. For example, a comfortable playroom, a kitchen where they take part in craft activities, and a garden which is equipped with a range of large physical play equipment.

Their risk of accidental injury is reduced because the childminder has taken steps to minimise risks. For example, by the use of stair gates and cupboard locks. The childminder has also assessed the risks to children using the large trampoline and climbing frame and has written guidelines on their use. The childminder supervises children's play to keep them safe and they benefit from a range of safe and suitable toys and equipment.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted because the childminder has attended child protection training and is aware of the correct procedures to follow in line with the Local Area Child Protection Committee. Parents are given a copy of her child protection statement which ensures they are aware of her obligation to protect children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settles in the childminders care. They are building positive relationships and developing their self esteem because the childminder is kind and affectionate towards them.

Children are developing their confidence and independence with praise and encouragement from the childminder. They have access to a wide variety of play and learning activities both inside and outside. They make choices about what they want to play with because the childminder provides toys and activities within their reach, this enables children to freely access appropriate toys and equipment.

Children are engrossed and enjoy their play. Their creativity and imagination is developing through a range of activities such as role play, small world play and various art and craft activities. The childminder encourages their language development by talking and listening to them, reading stories and asking children questions to make them think.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children feel a sense of belonging because the childminder promotes inclusion and values each child. The childminder works extremely well with children with special needs, and liaison with parents and other agencies is excellent. Any special requirements are logged and adjustments made to meet specific needs. All children have access to a good range of appropriate activities and resources which meet their developmental needs. Children are learning to have regard for each others needs through discussion and explanations from the childminder. Children are beginning to gain an awareness of their local community, for example, through visits to parent and toddler groups, local shops and the library. Resources reflecting the wider world are available.

Children learn about acceptable boundaries of behaviour and respond positively to the praise and encouragement they receive from the childminder. For example, children know that they are expected to share toys and that good manners are encouraged, such as saying please and thank you. Parents are made aware of the expected code of behaviour.

Children's well-being and progress is promoted as the childminder has an excellent relationship with parents. They benefit from the effective methods of ongoing communication between the childminder and their parents. For example, the childminder gives daily verbal feedback to parents and also completes a daily diary for each child. Information is gathered from parents about their child on a regular basis to ensure records remain current. Copies of written policies and procedures of the setting which include a parental partnership policy, statements on behaviour management, child protection and confidentiality are given to the parents prior to the onset of childminding taking place. References and thank you letters show that

parents are very positive about the care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in an environment which is well planned and organised to provide for their needs. They are able to move around easily and safely to access equipped in the prepared environment, which the childminder ensures is ready for their arrival each day. She organises her home and play materials to ensure children have free access and that all necessary facilities are available.

Children are kept safe by the childminder's effectively organised records. She has a clear understanding of keeping her paperwork in good order and up to date. For example, her daily attendance records show children's arrival and departure and she ensures that children are only released to individuals named by the parents.

Children have continuing support from the childminder to feel secure and confident as she ensures that the required adult to child ratios are maintained. The childminder ensures she supervises children closely when on outings and that all adults living in the house have been vetted.

Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to provide a fire blanket conforming to BS EN standards in the kitchen area, this is now in place.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report on.

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):

- ensure that written parental consent is obtained for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk