

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY281863
Inspection date	10 March 2008
Inspector	Deborah Kerry
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 was registered in 2004. She lives with her family in Ipswich. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding activities and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding six children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder works with an assistant.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends a local childminding group and local toddler groups. The family has one cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has in place written policies and procedures for sick children and for the safe administration of medication which ensures that children's health is promoted. An adequately

stocked first aid kit is available, however, the childminder's first aid certificate has expired in 2006. As a consequence children's health and safety are at risk in the event of a medical emergency. However, she has managed to access a place for first aid training in March 2008 to enable her to meet regulation requirements.

Children's physical development is promoted as they are able to push wheeled toys and roll balls to each other inside. The garden is used for outside physical play and the childminder takes children for walks to the park. Children are able to sleep according to their own needs, they are provided with their own bedding and area for when they need to rest. Children are developing an appropriate understanding of personal hygiene through the daily routine, as they know to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating.

Children have biscuits and satsuma for snack with helps to promote their healthy growth and development. There are cups available on the side for children to help themselves and the childminder reminds them to drink at regular intervals. The childminder provides children with a variety of healthy foods for snacks and meals which meet their individual dietary needs. The childminder works with parents and gives them sample menus for meals and snacks that she provides for minded children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that the areas which minded children have access to are made safe. For example, there is a gate across the lounge door which prevents children accessing the stairs and kitchen. The garden is secure and enclosed and children are able to access it for physical play. The childminder regularly checks all toys and resources to ensure that they are clean and safe for children to access.

The childminder has written procedures in place for all emergencies. This includes fire evacuation procedures, breakdowns in the car and if emergency medical treatments are needed, this ensures that children's safety is promoted. The childminder practises the emergency evacuation procedures with children on a regular basis which helps children develop a clear understanding of how to keep themselves safe. However, there is no fire blanket available in the kitchen which could compromise children's safety.

The childminder has attended training on safeguarding children and has written policies in place in line with local safeguarding children board procedures to ensure that their welfare is promoted. Policies and procedures are shared with parents, they sign a statement to say that they are aware of her procedures to promote children's welfare. The childminder keeps a record for existing injuries which ensures that both the childminder and children are safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides comfort for minded children if they become upset through cuddles. She holds babies when feeding them and rocks them to sleep when she knows they are ready for a nap. The childminder knows minded children well and their daily routines are respected. Children enjoy building towers with blocks, they push wheeled toys around the room and throw soft balls to one another inside.

Children are provided with age appropriate toys which they are able to self-select as they are on the floor within their reach. The childminder sits children close to her when reading stories which they like. Children are taken on regular outings most mornings which are suitable for their ages and helps to promote their language and social skills. The childminder has attended training on the 'Birth to three' matters framework to help her in supporting developmental outcomes for children under three.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's needs are met effectively as the childminder discusses all children's needs with parents before they start. They complete an 'all about me' booklet which keeps the childminder informed about each child's care needs. Children are offered appropriate support from the childminder when they start, she encourages parents to come for trial visits to allow the child to get used to their new surroundings. The childminder is bilingual and minds children from all backgrounds. Children of all abilities are welcomed by the childminder and she provides activities which are suitable for their age and abilities.

The childminder shares her rules with parents and explains these to children to help them to develop appropriate behaviour. Children are offered positive praise for their efforts which helps to develop their confidence and self-esteem. Children are encouraged to help tidy up resources and the rules are displayed in picture format which helps all children to understand what is expected of them.

Parents are able to learn about the childminder's practice as she shares her portfolio of all policies and procedures with them so that they are able to make informed decisions about their child's care needs. She keeps daily diaries on minded children if parents wish to keep them informed about their child's progress and development.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for by the childminder, she is developing her understanding of child development through undertaking a level three qualification in childcare to promote the progress and development of all children. However, the childminder's first aid certificate has expired, she has taken steps to access training to maintain her certificate and this is due to be undertaken in March 2008.

Children are well cared for as they are able to move around safely and access equipment easily and they are fully supported by the childminder in their play. The childminder prepares the space in her home which is organised around the needs of the children that attend. The childminder ensures that all the required documentation is in place and regularly updated in line with any changes in current legislation. The childminder has a comprehensive range of policies and procedures in place to support her practice. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure hazards in the back garden are made safe or inaccessible to children; the childminder has since moved house and there are no hazards in the garden of the current property.

She was also asked to ensure that the low-level glass panel in the back door is made safe or inaccessible to children; this is no longer an issue as the childminder has moved house and all low-level glass is now safety glass.

She was also asked to develop a system of recording complaints; the childminder has a policy in place with Ofsted contact details included. A record of a complaint is kept in a separate file which parents can see on request.

She was also asked to ensure a current first aid certificate is maintained; this is still outstanding. However, she has managed to book on a course starting in March 2008 which will then ensure when the training is completed that this recommendation is completed.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there has been one complaint made to Ofsted that required the provider to take action in order to meet the National Standards. Ofsted childcare inspector conducted a visit to the provision on 19th July 2007 to investigate the following National Standards; 1 (Suitable Person), 6 (Safety), 11 (Behaviour) and 12 (Working in partnership with parents and carers).

As a result of this visit three actions were raised.

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

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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):

- provide a fire blanket which conforms to BS EN safety standards and ensure that this is situated in the kitchen
- ensure that an appropriate first aid certificate is maintained
- ensure that public liability insurance is maintained.

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