



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256589
Inspection date	24 June 2005
Inspector	Jane Louise Tallent

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 has been registered since 1997. She lives with her children in a three storey property in a small village, which is on the outskirts of Norwich, in Norfolk. Her children are in full time education. Currently there are nine children who are on roll. Children have access to all of the downstairs rooms and a play room, bathroom and landing on the first floor of the house. There is an enclosed part of the garden, for children to play in under supervision, as there is some public access through part of the garden. A second toilet is available outside for children to use when they play outdoors. Local pre-school groups and schools are within easy reach. The family have a pet cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a tidy, clean and hygienic environment. They are all familiar with daily routines and are helped to develop socially as they sit together for snacks and meal times. The children are also able to have undisturbed sleep when they need to. Children show good levels of independence as they eat their lunch, and can independently access their drinks throughout the day. Children are helped to take some responsibility for their own personal hygiene by washing their hands and wiping them on individual towel squares before eating, and after using the toilet. Children eat well because snacks and meals are suitably well organised, and planned around their dietary requirements. Children have regular opportunities to play outside in the garden, and are able to play safely, because the fencing is arranged so that it effectively divides the garden into areas for children to use and restricted areas. This promotes all of the children's physical development and allows them to lead healthy lifestyles.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have some very good opportunities to play, explore and develop their skills within a safe environment. They use ample good quality, safe resources which are appropriate their ages and stages of development. The children know where toys are stored and can access most of them easily, which enables them to choose what they want to play with, and how to spend their time. The younger children, particularly, enjoy playing outside with water and paintbrushes during the hot weather. The children are comfortable and confident to be able to move around the home inside and outdoors, as they play, and their safety is well prioritised even when things get broken. For example, a temporary barrier is installed to prevent children from having access to an upstairs window while the catch is broken. All children are helped to understand how to stay safe, and can sit safely in the car. Their safety is well prioritised while they are on outings, with permission slips, insurance cover, first aid equipment and risk assessments in place. There is an effective registration system in place and all records are sufficiently well maintained for children's needs to be understood and their welfare promoted. Children are well protected because the childminder is fully conversant with child protection procedures and secure in her knowledge of how to make a referral.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children show good levels of confidence in their relationships with other children and adults, in the home environment. All children interact well with the childminder as they chatter and play together. The children are keen to share their successes and

eagerly show adults what they can do, when they draw and make marks with water on the walls and paths outside before watching them disappear as they dry. All children are able to choose toys from accessible storage units in the main play room. Older children are able to gain some additional privacy by playing in another room or by going outside as appropriate. Individual children's sleep patterns are respected and their interests are well developed. The children feel able to ask for books, dolls, puzzles and paint brushes, and adults respond favourably to these requests. This sort of co-operation has a positive impact on children's confidence and self-esteem as part of their emotional development

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are cared for according to their differing needs, and demonstrate their consideration for others as they play. They learn sensitivity for other children and are helped to extend their play experiences with access to multi-cultural artefacts and resources. Overall, children behave well and respond positively to simple instructions from the childminder. They are helped to do this by the childminder who consistently reinforces set boundaries for them, and helps them to understand why they need to tidy some toys up before getting others out, for example. The children are helped to know how to share and take turns which enables them to play happily alongside other children. Children with special needs are welcome in this setting, and all children benefit from the daily exchanges of information that take place between the childminder and parents when children arrive and depart. These exchanges keep the parents well informed about the sort of day their child has had and also helps the parents to make decisions about the longer term care of their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a very welcoming and well organised environment, where they can have fun. They also benefit from the childminder's thorough knowledge and good practical experience of childcare, as she is well aware of the need to notify Ofsted of significant changes and events, frequently completes relevant training courses to keep her knowledge up to date, and prioritises the children's health and safety well. The children's routines and individual details are meticulously documented, and well stored, to make sure that their needs are fully understood and good levels of confidentiality can be maintained. In this way each of the children's needs are suitably met and their welfare is well promoted.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to be able to accurately identify which child attended each day.

Children are now easily identified in the register, because their full names are being

recorded since the last inspection. This has a positive impact on their safety.

At the last inspection the outdoor toilet was uninviting and in need of renovation to maintain good levels of hygiene. The childminder decided to refrain from letting the children use the outdoor toilet at that time.

Full renovation has taken place, and as a consequence the children are able to use the outside toilet while they play outdoors, which means that, overall, the children have greater independence and can play for longer periods of time, without unnecessary disruption.

This represents a good level of improvement since the previous inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- monitor children's safety closely in the upstairs bathroom until the window unit is secure.

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