



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	251103
Inspection date	30 November 2005
Inspector	Lynda Jean Bullock

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 1995. She lives with her husband and 3 children aged 9, 15 and 18 years in a house in Bury St Edmunds. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 5 children at any one time and is currently minding 5 children all on a part-time basis. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family have fish and a dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. (NCMA)

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from the spread of illness and infection as the childminder has a policy about the exclusion of children who may be ill, which is shared with parents. If they become ill while in her care she contacts parents so that they can be collected. Children's health is at risk as the childminder does not have up to date first aid training and has not got parental permission for emergency medical treatment in place for every child.

Children are cared for in an environment which is clean and hygienic with the childminder ensuring all the surfaces in her home are cleaned daily, toys are washed regularly and that any animals do not pose a health risk. However children have little understanding of the importance of washing their hands before having meals or after visiting the toilet which helps to maintain their good health.

Children's healthy growth and development is promoted by the childminder as she gathers information from parents about any dietary needs they have. They are provided with a variety of nutritious food and drinks which are essential for their good health. Children are beginning to learn about foods which are important for their growth when talking to the childminder about which foods are good for them.

Children's physical health is well promoted as the childminder ensures they rest and sleep according to their needs, that they have daily access to the park and walks around the local community which helps to develop strong muscles and bodies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and generally safe home environment with the childminder ensuring that children are protected from most hazards such as medicines, however they can access cleaning materials in the kitchen and bathroom. Young children are protected from small toy pieces as the childminder supervises them while they play. Older children are beginning to learn to keep themselves safe as they help to tidy away toys so others don't trip over them.

Children independently select activities from the good range of safe toys and resources provided which are presented at low level. Their safety is protected through the well maintained furniture and equipment which are suitable for their age and stage of development.

Children's welfare is adequately safeguarded and promoted as the childminder has some knowledge of child protection. However she is not clear about the procedures to follow and who to contact when necessary to protect children from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They are building positive relationships and developing their self-esteem as the childminder is kind and affectionate to them. When babies wake up from a sleep she gives them a cuddle giving them warm physical contact.

Children are developing their confidence as the childminder is giving them lots of praise and encouragement. They have access to a good variety of play and learning activities both inside and outside. They make choices about what they want to do as the childminder provides toys and activities within their reach which helps to develop their independence.

Children are engrossed and enjoying their play. Their creativity and imagination is developing through a range of activities such as role play, small world play and building with bricks. Their language is developing as the childminder is talking and listening to them and young children are well supported and encouraged to explore their surroundings as they learn to walk and crawl.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Young children are beginning to learn about right and wrong through following the good examples set by the childminder. They are learning to share and take turns. Young children's efforts to share are valued by the childminder as she gives lots of positive praise and encouragement. Older children are encouraged to be kind and considerate to others.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They are appropriately cared for by the childminder who invests time getting to know their likes, dislikes and backgrounds. Their individual needs are well met as the childminder gathers information from the parents about their daily routine, such as following their sleeping and eating patterns from home.

Children have some opportunities to experience the wider world through outings in the local community and from the toys available to play with, such as books and play people.

Children's well-being and progress is promoted as the childminder has a good relationship with parents, which helps children feel secure. They benefit from the good methods of ongoing communication between the childminder and their parents. For example, the childminder gives daily feedback and gathers information from parents about their child, ensuring this is kept up to date and confidential.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for and supported by the childminder as she makes good use of the space and resources in her home. They are able to access toys and equipment which the childminder gets ready for their arrival each day. She organises her home and some toys to ensure children have free access and that all the necessary facilities are available.

Children are kept safe by the childminder's organised records. She has an understanding of the importance of keeping her paperwork in good order and up to date. For example, the childminder records children's arrival and departure in her register and ensures they 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. Children are safe and protected from any adult who has not been vetted. The childminder ensures she supervises children closely when on outings and that all adults living in the household have been vetted.

Overall, the range of children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to update her first aid training, she did attend a course however due to ill health she missed one of the sessions. She is on a waiting list to attend the next available session in the area, this will then enable her to deal with any first aid emergency to children appropriately.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. 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?
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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):

- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection to ensure appropriate procedures are followed
- complete first aid training and ensure permission is gained from parents for emergency medical advice and treatment
- ensure children are protected from hazards, such as cleaning materials
- improve hand washing routines.

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