



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 256357
Inspection date 30 November 2005
Inspector Georgina Emily Hobson Matthews

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 1992. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in a house in the Catton area of Norwich, within walking distance of schools, playgroups and local amenities.

Currently, she is caring for children on a full-time basis and 3 children attend at different times. Children have access to the ground floor of her home and toilet facilities are on the first floor. An enclosed garden is available for outdoor play.

The family has no pets.

The childminder does not drive although she has obtained parents' consents to transport children with another registered childminder. She attends a local toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted as the childminder displays appropriate hygiene practice. Toilet and nappy changing procedures are suitable and working surfaces, carpets and toilet facilities are cleaned each day in order to prevent the spread of infection. Children learn the importance of personal hygiene as the childminder talks to them about why it is important to wash hands before eating and after outdoor play or using the toilet. Children are protected from cross contamination as the childminder shares her policy with parents regarding children who are ill. Children's welfare is accommodated as the childminder can respond to accidents appropriately as she holds a current first aid certificate and a first aid box is easily accessible.

Children develop an awareness of healthy eating as the childminder encourages them to eat fruit at snack times. Their special dietary requirements are identified prior to the commencement of care, to ensure no child is at risk from a reaction to food. Parents provide meals for the children and the childminder does not discuss the contents with parents in order to provide children with a healthy diet. Children have access to fresh drinking water at all times.

Children have some opportunities to play outdoors in the garden and the childminder encourages young children to develop some large physical skills by helping them to walk and to ride on tricycles. Physical play experiences for children up to age three are limited and they are not having opportunities to develop and explore a wide range of physical movements. Children are able to rest and be active according to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure, safe indoor and outdoor environment. They have sufficient space in the sitting room to give scope for free movement and well spread out activities. There is adequate storage space for equipment and the children use a range of safe and suitable resources.

Children's safety is fostered. The childminder has carried out a risk assessment of her home to minimise children's risk of accidental injury. Fire safety is promoted as appropriate equipment is in place. Children are provided with clear explanations in order to learn to keep themselves safe. The childminder talks to them about clearing toys when not in use to prevent accidents. She raises children's awareness of road safety and talks about the importance of protecting themselves in the sun.

Children are protected as the childminder is aware of her responsibility in this area. The childminder has procedures in place for children who are lost or uncollected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and at ease in the childminder's care and confident in their approach to her. She provides the children with a selection of resources, takes them on outings and offers activities such as cooking, for the older children.

The childminder has not received a copy of 'Birth to three matters', a framework to support children in their earliest years. Her resources are not accessible, easily visible or inviting to the younger children. She encourages and supports young children as they begin to stand and walk but activities and experiences are not planned to meet all of their developmental needs.

The childminder is caring and attentive to children's needs. A child has space to sit on the floor and to explore with a range of cars and a garage. The child is relaxed and comfortable as she sits on the childminder's lap and drinks a bottle of milk.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are identified with parents prior to the commencement of care. The childminder is aware of the need to reflect positive images of diversity and has some items within her resources to address this area. Children feel a sense of belonging as a range of resources is laid out on the floor on their arrival. They become aware of the wider society as they are taken on outings to shops, parks and other childminders and to the beach in the summer. Younger children visit a local toddler group on a regular basis. The childminder has an awareness of special educational needs issues.

The childminder uses positive strategies to help children to distinguish between right and wrong and to become aware of the needs of others. She shares a written behaviour management statement with parents to make them aware of her strategies and to encourage consistency.

Children's ongoing progress is accommodated through discussion at the beginning and end of each day. Parents are not made aware of how to raise a complaint or concern if they are unhappy with any elements of their child's care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the care of appropriately vetted childminder, however, there is no evidence that the childminder's daughter has been vetted. The childminder

organises her home to accommodate children's play. Children have access to the ground floor and play takes place in the sitting room and the enclosed garden. Rest is accommodated on a sofa and young children are accompanied to the upstairs toilet.

Most documentation is in place but children's welfare is not assured as written authorisation is not obtained from parents prior to the administration of medication and to release all children into the care of other adults, in the event of an emergency. The childminder has not checked that her daughter's car insurers cover the transportation of children in the childminder's care and a copy of the Government booklet 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused' is not available.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop a policy for caring for sick children and to obtain written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for each child. She has addressed these issues in order to promote the safe and efficient management of her provision.

Complaints 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.

Concerns were raised relating to Standards 6, 12 and 14. These relate to safety, working in partnership with parents and documentation. A visit was conducted on 07 June 2005 and 2 actions were raised following this visit. These were to ensure that all minded children are transported safely in appropriate seats and belts and to ensure that all required consents, information and documentation is available for all children cared for, at all times. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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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):

- discuss contents of packed lunches with parents to provide children with a healthy diet
- improve outcomes for children from birth to three by organising resources more effectively and planning activities to meet the children's developmental needs
- complete vetting checks for daughter, check that her car insurers cover the transport of children in your care, make parents aware of how to raise a complaint or concern, obtain up to date child protection procedures, and obtain written authority prior to administering medication and before releasing each child into the care of other adults

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