



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256375
Inspection date	08 February 2006
Inspector	Melanie Calway

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 has been registered since 1989. She lives with her husband and two children aged 21 and 12 years in the town of Aylsham. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. She walks to take and collect children from local schools and pre-schools and drives them on occasional outings. The family has two dogs and a tortoise as pets.

She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding five children who attend on a part-time basis.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends the local childminding group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because the childminder has procedures in place to exclude children who are infectious. Parents know that they need to keep sick children away and the childminder contacts parents if children are sick, when in her care, thus minimising the risk of cross infection. Children's health needs are adequately met because all the relevant information is obtained from parents and consent for emergency or advice treatment has been obtained so that help can be sought in the event of an emergency. A medication record is kept but is not maintained to observe confidentiality and the record does not make it clear that parents are giving permission as only one signature obtained.

Children's health is promoted as there are satisfactory hygiene procedures in place. Children are encouraged to wash hands before eating and after the toilet. They can be independent as there is a step stool at the sink and individual pieces of kitchen towel for them to dry their hands to minimise the risk of cross infection. Baby wipes are used to clean baby's hands. However there is little explanation or discussion to enable children to understand the importance of good hygiene.

Children enjoy regular opportunities to experience physical activity and fresh air as they walk to school and playgroup every day. There is a large enclosed garden for physical play but this is used only in the summer. The family has two dogs, which are kept in the utility area and managed so they do not have an adverse effect on children's health. Children can rest and sleep as they need to either on the sofa or in push chairs, with parents' consent.

Children are adequately nourished. Parents provide meals and snacks and the childminder provides drinks and biscuits. Fresh drinking water is not always readily available. There is no discussion about healthy eating so that children are not learning the importance of living a healthy life style. Children's dietary needs are met as all the relevant information is obtained from parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are safe and generally well cared for in premises that are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They access a good range of toys which are made available in the living room and can ask the childminder for other items from the cupboard. Children's safety is promoted because the childminder ensures that toys and equipment are age-appropriate. She regularly replaces items and checks them for safety. Young children are protected because the childminder is careful to keep smaller items out of their reach. She gives explanations to older children so that they

are able to begin to understand the safety rules.

Children are kept safe because the childminder takes positive steps to promote safety within the home and on outings. She maintains a good level of supervision and explanations are given to children to enable them to take responsibility for their own safety. For example, when going out, the childminder talks to them about holding on to the straps on the buggy and why they need to do this. Children can wander around safely as the necessary safety equipment is in place, for example a stair gate at bottom of stairs. However the environment becomes cluttered by the end of the morning, creating a possible risk. Children are protected from the risk of fire because the childminder has worked out an evacuation procedure and talks to children so they understand what to do in the event of a fire. Smoke alarms and a fire blanket are in place. The childminder ensures she has the necessary permissions from parents for outings and transport.

Children are adequately protected because the childminder would seek advice if she had concerns about a child. She has up to date information on child protection procedures, which she can refer to.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of activities. The childminder puts out a large selection of toys out in the living room for children to choose from. They also do craft activities at kitchen table. Felt tips, sticking, templates and scissors are available. Children are confident in selecting resources and asking the childminder for support, for example in holding template. Children also enjoy a range of outings to playgroup, childminding group and visits to shops and parks. Children's confidence and self-esteem are promoted well. The childminder gives praise and encouragement. Children have good opportunities to develop their independence skills. They wash hands independently, choose activities and fetch their bags. They also make good efforts to put on shoes and coats before going out, with the childminder's support. Children are interested in the activities on offer. The childminder involves herself in their play, responds and listens. She reads stories selected by the children and counts with the children. Children form positive relationships with each other and the childminder and play happily together.

Children under three are given appropriate care. Toys are available at their level and they have some opportunities to explore and investigate. They play happily alongside other children. The childminder has the 'Birth to three matters' framework pack but is not using it regularly to maximise opportunities for under threes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing sound relationships with adults and other children in a setting where the childminder works with parents and carers to meet individual

children's needs because the childminder knows them well. She ensures she has enough information from parents when they start about their likes and dislikes to care for them effectively. Children are beginning to learn about the wider world as resources reflect diversity and the childminder talks to them about recent experiences of celebrating Chinese New Year at the local childminding group. Children play with chopsticks and play food. The childminder develops her resources by borrowing relevant equipment, for example Chinese dolls. All children are valued and their individual needs are met. The childminder has no experience of caring for children with special needs but will work with parents to ensure children are offered appropriate support.

Children behave well because the childminder has clear boundaries and children understand the rules, for example sitting down when eating. Children are encouraged to share and given explanations about safety rules, for example keeping small items out of the reach of babies.

Children's needs are met satisfactorily because the childminder obtains the necessary information from parents to care for them effectively and exchanges information regularly with parents at collection and dropping off times. A complaints log has not been set up in line with recent changes in regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation of the setting ensures that children are cared for satisfactorily. The childminder has attended courses to ensure she has the knowledge and skills to care for children, although her First Aid qualification has currently lapsed. The setting is organised so that children receive a good level of attention and supervision and the schedule is well organised to include outings and nursery and school pick ups and collections. The organisation of the premises allows children to make choices and be independent, although there is no separate area for children to sleep.

Documentation is adequately maintained and all the necessary information held. Overall the needs of the children attending are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that checks were in place for any children over 16 living on the premises. This has been done.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004.

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

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 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):

- promote children's health by encouraging healthy eating and giving children explanations about good diet and hygiene practice so that they begin to learn how to keep themselves healthy
- ensure fresh drinking water is readily available and accessible at all times
- set up a complaints log in line with recent changes in regulations.

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