



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256597
Inspection date	14 September 2005
Inspector	Lindsey Ann Cullum

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 1988. She lives with her husband and two grown up children, in the town of Dereham, Norfolk. The downstairs of the property only is registered for use by minded children. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. Local amenities are within walking distance of the home. The family keep goldfish.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time. Overnight care is not provided. The childminder is currently caring for 10 children on a part-time basis, some of whom are over the age of 8 years.

The childminder is a member of National Childminding Association and occasionally attends the childminding group which meets in the town.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a range of activities which contribute to their physical development and promote a healthy lifestyle. They frequently travel to and from school on foot and enjoy walks into the town or to the local park. Opportunities are provided for outdoor play in the garden where children can run around freely and enjoy games, for example, cricket which develops their co-ordination skills. Children's normal routines are incorporated. They are aware of their own need to rest or sleep and suitable provision is made for young children to sleep undisturbed, contributing to their well-being.

Children are provided with food in adequate quantities to promote their healthy growth and development. Mealtimes are social occasions, where children learn good table manners and become independent by feeding themselves. Drinks are provided during the day and children are encouraged to drink regularly, although drinks are not readily accessible to young children in order that they may take responsibility for their own drinking needs.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean and well-maintained home. They learn the importance of good personal hygiene through established routines for hand-washing, for example, before eating or after using the toilet. The childminder makes parents aware of her policy regarding the care of sick children, in order to protect children from the risk of cross infection. Children's health is promoted as the childminder has a current first aid certificate and has appropriate systems in place for recording accidents and the administration of medication.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe environment where they feel relaxed and comfortable. The childminder has identified and minimised hazards for children within the house, however, the outdoor play space is not fully secure which impacts on children's safety. Fire safety measures are in place and children's awareness of emergency evacuation practices are promoted through discussion with the childminder. Children are safeguarded whilst on outings with the childminder as they are familiar with the strategies used to keep them safe, for example, holding onto the side of the buggy.

The premises, equipment and resources are maintained in a suitable condition by the childminder which enables children to play safely. Children have access to a suitable range of resources and the childminder monitors children's choices to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Clear

explanations from the childminder help children develop an awareness of their own safety. Children are able to move freely between the house and garden, although this restricts the level of supervision children receive when both areas are used and impacts on their safety. The required documentation is in place to safeguard children's welfare.

Children are protected as the childminder has attended training on child protection and has an appropriate knowledge of the local guidelines and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. Their self-esteem is fostered as the childminder is warm and caring in her approach, uses children's names, smiles and offers cuddles. The childminder involves all the children in activities, encourages children to listen to each other, share resources and take turns, which helps them to build positive relationships with each other. Older children demonstrate their independence by helping to find a toy for a younger child or being involved in tidying away after lunch.

The childminder enables children to make choices and is guided by what children want to do, building their confidence. They acquire new skills and knowledge as the childminder actively involves herself in the children's activities. She knows the capabilities of each child and uses activities to extend their learning, for example, identifying the colours of the crayons. Books are used to read stories, to help children understand counting or as a point of reference, for example, to help a child wanting to draw a specific dinosaur. Children enjoy a range of creative materials and confidently request additional items for their ideas. They are supported by the childminder who uses careful questioning or encourages children to try again, to promote their learning. Consequently, children are making good progress in all areas of their learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and their individual needs met. They benefit from the childminder knowing them well and responding appropriately to their personal needs during the day. All children have access to appropriate toys and play equipment which promotes their development. The childminder is able to make any necessary adaptations to activities so that all children are fully included. Children's awareness of a wider society is developed during visits with the childminder and discussion, as a limited range of resources reflect diversity.

Children are well behaved, take turns and share the play equipment, for example, ride on toys in the garden. House rules have been established and children are familiar with what is expected of them. Children demonstrate an awareness of the routine and sit at the table for their lunch. Good table manners are encouraged, for

example, children say thank you for their food and ask to leave the table when finished.

Children benefit from the partnership that has developed between the childminder and parents. The childminder liaises closely with individual parents, ensuring she is up to date with children's progress, familiar with specific needs and provides suitable resources to enhance children's learning. The childminder does not have a formal system for receiving complaints in order that parents are aware of how to raise a concern if they are unhappy with any element of their child's care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the care of an experienced childminder enabling them to feel settled and secure. Space is organised effectively so children can play, eat and sleep in comfort, promoting their well-being. Quiet space is also provided for young children to sleep undisturbed or for older children to complete their homework.

Checks have been completed to ensure that persons living in the household are suitable. Substantial arrangements are not in place to protect children when using the outdoor area, which is not fully secure due to rights of way and access arrangements.

The childminder takes into account parents' wishes and shares information each day to ensure continuity of care for children. All legally required documentation is in place and suitably maintained to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Overall, the needs of the children who attend are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

As a result of the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve her first aid documentation, extend her equal opportunities resources and increase her knowledge of child protection.

She has attended training to update her knowledge of child protection procedures and has obtained the relevant literature, which provides greater protection for children. She has obtained written parental permission to seek emergency advice or treatment for children, safeguarding their welfare.

The childminder makes use of resources from the local library and initiates discussions with children to raise their awareness of our diverse society.

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 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):

- make sure that the premises are secure and that children are supervised at all times
- improve arrangements for protecting children from persons who are not vetted
- provide parents with the contact details for Ofsted and develop a system for recording complaints.

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