

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	256409
Inspection date	05 September 2007
Inspector	Susan Smith
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 was registered in 1999. She lives with her husband and three children aged 12, 10 and four years in the town of Harleston, in South Norfolk. The playroom, kitchen, utility and toilet on the ground floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding five children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder has two guinea pigs as pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained home, which promotes their good health. Children receive appropriate care if they are ill or if they have an accident whilst in the childminder's care. For example, the childminder holds an appropriate first aid qualification and a fully stocked first aid kit is readily available. All accidents and any medication administered is recorded fully and shared with parents, so that they are fully informed. These records support children's safety and good health.

Children are learning about healthy eating as they enjoy a range of snacks and meals featuring fresh fruit and vegetables. The childminder is careful to follow the wishes of parents when preparing food provided from home. All food brought to the childminder's home is stored appropriately so that it remains safe and appetising for the children to eat. She is aware of all children's dietary requirements and ensures that these needs are met.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities and have regular opportunities for fresh air and exercise in the childminder's garden. They develop their fine manipulative skills through taking part in a range of mark-making and gluing activities. Babies have space to practise their physical skills in safety.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a safe and secure environment which is child-friendly and very welcoming. They move safely and confidently from one area to another, freely accessing toys and equipment which helps to provide a stimulating environment in which children can choose toys that interest and motivate them. Children's safety is promoted because most of the necessary steps have been taken to minimise their risk of accidental injury. For example, cupboard locks prevent children from accessing cleaning chemicals and safety gates are used to prevent them accessing the stairs. However, children are able to lock themselves in the toilet which potentially compromises their safety.

Children have access to an extensive range of high quality toys and equipment that meet safety standards. The childminder supervises children's play to ensure toys are used appropriately and are suitable for the ages of children attending. Children are kept safe on outings because the childminder ensures that the pushchairs are safe and maintained in good condition. Although the childminder has verbal permission to take children on outings she does not obtain written permission.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has a sound understanding of her role in child protection. She has a clear policy which is shared with parents to ensure they are aware of her responsibilities to protect children. She is confident that she would be able to put appropriate procedures into place if necessary. She intends to renew her child protection training to ensure her knowledge and understanding is kept up to date.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very relaxed and content in the childminder's care. They form good relationships with her and respond well to her caring and encouraging manner. The childminder demonstrates excellent interaction skills with the children during their play and asks open-ended questions to extend their learning. For example, encouraging a child to identify colours during a gluing activity or counting shapes to help them develop simple problem solving skills to support their early mathematical development.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem because the childminder knows them well and shows genuine interest in their families and their lives. The childminder follows children's interests and supports their learning, by providing them with a wide range of stimulating play opportunities to interest and motivate them. Children enjoy spending time with the childminder and use their imagination during their play, acting out familiar scenarios. For example, when

playing with the play kitchen making cups of tea. Children are happy to play alone at times and are absorbed in their drawing and making home scenes with the felt shaped pieces. They cooperate in their play as they enjoy making puzzles together.

The childminder incorporates many aspects of 'Birth to three matters' in her good practice. She encourages young children's communication skills by patiently listening and responding to their questions so that they know their views are valued. She has a plentiful supply of toys and equipment for this age group to promote their all round development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children develop a strong sense of belonging because the childminder ensures they are all valued and included. They have excellent relationships with the childminder who responds sensitively to them and respects their individual personalities. Children have equal access to toys and equipment that meet their individual needs so they can become confident and independent. The childminder provides children with access to a good range of resources reflecting a positive view of diversity to help them develop an understanding of others.

The childminder is aware that some children may have learning difficulties or disabilities, and understands the importance of working in partnership with parents and with other professionals to promote the child's welfare and development. Children are learning to manage their behaviour effectively as the childminder is a positive role model and has a good understanding of appropriate strategies dependent on children's stage of development.

Children benefit from the positive relationships the childminder develops with their parents. Most of the required documentation and consents are in place to ensure children are cared for according to their parents' wishes. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure parents are kept well informed about relevant policies and procedures via a parent pack detailing her childminding practices. The childminder shares information verbally with parents on collection, this ensures children's changing needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit by being cared for by a childminder who is committed and enthusiastic about her work. She works hard to ensure that children enjoy their time in her care and that activities are fun. The childminder organises her home to provide children with a welcoming and child-friendly environment in which they take part in a range of activities to support their care, learning and play. They benefit from regular routines which help them feel confident and secure. Space and resources are well organised to provide children with a balanced range of suitable activities.

The childminder has comprehensive policies and procedures which she shares with parents to support her childminding practices. Most of the required documentation is in place and the childminder maintains an accurate record of children's attendance to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and achievement. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, to improve the standards of care, the childminder was required to ensure that an accurate record of attendance is maintained and written consent is in place from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has taken positive steps towards all of the previous recommendations, consent to seek emergency medical advice and treatment is obtained at the beginning of the child's placement. She now has in place register sheets which are completed on a daily basis and show the actual times of attendance. Consequently, children's health and safety are promoted and maintained.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 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):

- obtain written permission for children to go on outings and ensure children's safety within the setting with reference to the bolt on the toilet door.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk