



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	255982
Inspection date	10 October 2005
Inspector	Susan Cox

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1996. She lives with her husband and children aged eight and ten in a residential area of Norwich. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding, with the exception of the main bedroom, and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children at various times during the week. She is registered to work with an assistant who may, at times agreed with the parents, take sole charge of the children. When working with an assistant her registered numbers

remain the same. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends local parent and toddler groups.

The childminder supports children with special needs and also children with English as an additional language.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted as they are learning to manage their personal hygiene effectively. They understand the need to wash their hands after using the toilet and before meals and do this with appropriate supervision if required. Hygiene procedures within the home are also effective in maintaining children's health. The childminder has good systems in place to gather and record information about children's health so she may respond appropriately to their individual needs. She has updated her first aid training and older children know where to find the first aid box to take to her in the event of needing to deal with an accident.

Children enjoy a variety of fresh foods prepared to meet their dietary requirements. Learning about foods that are good for them is part of the daily routine and children's understanding is developing well. For example, at lunch time a child says, "I like breadsticks as they are good for me". Children drink freely as water is readily available at all times acknowledging the benefits of drinking frequently.

Limited space in the enclosed rear yard gives children opportunities to find out how their bodies work as they bounce on the mini trampoline and play with a range of other equipment. They love visiting the park where they have space to run around, explore and use appropriate play equipment under close supervision for their safety. Attending parent and toddler groups give many opportunities for physical play indoors and an area of the lounge is often cleared for dancing or for the trampoline to be used, if the weather is bad, so children continue to be active.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children quickly settle to play in the warm and welcoming family home. Comfortable furniture, resources around the room and space to play encourages them to be happy and content. They know that they do not go upstairs, unless invited by the childminder's children to play in their bedrooms, and ask to go to the toilet so their safety can be monitored appropriately. They enjoy playing in the fresh air where they are closely supervised for safety as a neighbour needs occasional access across the yard.

Children confidently access a good range of well-organised resources making many of their own choices from appropriate storage. They help tidy up before getting out more toys understanding that this helps to stop them falling over things, or breaking

them, as well as giving them more space to play. Children are learning about our multi cultural society as they play with a good variety of resources that portray positive images.

The childminder has a clear understanding of minimising risks in her home and on outings and has taken the relevant action to maintain a safe environment. She has a clear evacuation plan but has not yet practised this with all the children to ensure they know how to leave the premises safely in an emergency.

Children are protected as the childminder understands the child protection procedures. She has the relevant information and realises it is her duty to report any concerns to ensure children remain safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed. They play contentedly together with a range of appropriate and stimulating resources and are developing independence as they make many of their own choices. They use their imaginations well and act out real life experiences such as finding buggies and dolls to take for a walk and going up in the 'lift' which is the door mat. Sharing, taking turns and helping others comes naturally, for example, a child finds a doll for her friend to hold during nappy changing. She puts on the light to help the childminder and then sings happy birthday to her friend to keep her occupied at this time.

Good relationships are developing with the children confident to snuggle up to the childminder to share a favourite book that they have found and following the pictures, contributing words or predicting the story according to their stage of development. They talk freely knowing the childminder will listen to them and value what they say, such as, explaining about an incident on holiday leading to the childminder following up with further discussion about staying safe. New words are being learnt and are repeated as they become familiar with them, for example, 'soggy' when talking about a wet nappy. Parent and toddler group sessions are popular as the children enjoy playing with their friends in a different environment. A special treat of 'going out for coffee' makes them feel very grown up as they have a drink and something to eat whilst helping them to learn social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children thrive as they are treated as individuals with the childminder knowing them well and respecting their individual stage of development. An inclusive approach sees them all taking part in activities that help them learn about and value the range of people that make up our society. They are developing an understanding of people with a disability such as a child explaining, "we saw a lady with poorly eyes and she had a special dog to help her. We must not touch the dog because it is working to help her."

Children's behaviour is good. They are learning to manage their own behaviour as they understand the boundaries and the childminder is consistent in her expectations. They enjoy the praise they regularly receive. A written behaviour management policy is shared with parents so the childminder can work with them effectively to help the children learn right from wrong in a supportive environment.

The partnership with parents is good. Some written policies help them understand the service that is provided and how the childminder will meet their child's needs. There is a daily, informal exchange of information and diaries are used to record development such as new words learnt, and to ensure children are cared for appropriately. The childminder has the information regarding the new regulations regarding the investigation of complaints but has not yet established a system to manage these effectively.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's safety is promoted as appropriate checks have been conducted for the childminder and her husband, who is also her assistant at times. She supervises the children effectively to prevent persons who have not been vetted having unsupervised contact with them. The children benefit from her commitment to training as she uses new ideas effectively such as starting to implement the 'Birth to three matters' framework to further develop her working practice with the younger children. Record keeping is good with files for individual children maintained to respect confidentiality. She has effective systems for sharing information with parents about their child's care and welfare. However, her certificate of registration is held in a file and not prominently on display when minding.

Overall the needs of all the children attending are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection recommendations were set to review the safety of children playing out the front, to check working with an assistant was within planning requirements and to make sure children did not have access to the main bedroom. Children no longer play out the front, she has checked with planning that working with an assistant is appropriate and a high hook now excludes children from the main bedroom. The childminder has taken relevant action to maintain children's safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- establish a system to investigate and record complaints
- make sure the registration certificate is prominently displayed for all to see when childminding.

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