



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	560007
Inspection date	04 August 2006
Inspector	Tina Anne Mason
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 1990. She lives with her two adult children in Doddinghurst, Brentwood in Essex. The whole of the premises is used for childminding except for the second and third bedrooms and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding six children all of whom except for one child attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children, takes children to the local library and to the local park. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from cross infection by the satisfactory standards of hygiene maintained by the childminder within her home. Children's good health and general well-being is promoted by the childminder's sound knowledge of first aid, which is supported by a current first aid certificate and an accessible first aid kit.

Young children's emotional needs are valued. The childminder gives reassurance, cuddles and praise throughout the day. Children are welcomed by the childminder's friendly approach. For example, the childminder uses happy facial expressions and positive body language when interacting with young children on their arrival and throughout the day.

Children's dietary needs are met. The childminder works in partnership with parents and carers to meet each child's individual needs. Children benefit from healthy snacks and drinks. While parents currently provide the main meals for their children, the childminder has an understanding of what constitutes as a healthy, nutritious diet.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy using a range of toys and equipment which meet safety standards. They independently select activities. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The children are cared for in a home where they can relax and play safely. The childminder is conscientious in her responsibility to minimise hazards and help the children to understand how to keep themselves safe. For example, the childminder takes time to explain safety issues carefully with them.

The childminder has the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. The childminder has good understanding of child protection procedures in line with the current guidelines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit well from the effective praise and nurturing environment created by the childminder, which contributes to their sense of belonging and security. Young children are able to learn about words and meaning by the effective interaction with the childminder when turn taking and reading books.

Children enjoy different types of play opportunities, young children are given appropriate opportunities for messy play as well as activities which support their all round development. The childminder has a sound working knowledge of child development.

Children are happy and confidently choose toys and resources for themselves. They are motivated and interested in a broad range of purposeful indoor and outdoor activities which provide stimulating levels of challenge, appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and show care and concern for others. The children's behaviour is very good in response to the childminder's praise and encouragement and clear boundaries. The childminder takes time to get to know the children in her care so that she can meet their individual needs.

Children benefit from the partnership the childminder establishes with parents and carers. The childminder welcomes parents and carers and keeps them informed daily about activities, routines, sleeps and meals. However, the childminder was not aware of the changes made to the National Standards, in regards to keeping a record of any concerns or complaints that may be raised by parents and carers. Therefore this has the potential to affect a child's welfare and developmental progress.

Children learn about the wider world in a meaningful way, the childminder provides a range of toys and resources to develop children's awareness of our differences and similarities. Children learn about the local community as they walk to the local parks and visit local amenities.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her time effectively. She spends most of her day being actively involved with the children while still enabling the children to enjoy the normal routines of family life. Records are maintained to support the welfare, care and development of the children.

The well-being of children is safeguarded by the systems that the childminder has in place, such as child record forms and the daily record of children's attendance clearly details the times of their arrival and departure.

The children benefit from the childminder having a clear understanding of her role as a carer. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to carry out the following recommendations. Continue to obtain sufficient toys and play equipment; increase the range of toys and books to reflect positive images of people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and varying needs. Ensure all the necessary consent forms are in place; ensure emergency numbers are accessible; accident and medication records contain all the required information; written consent is obtained to take photographs of the children and obtain the National Standards and Guidance for Under Eights Childminding. Maintain all smoke alarms in good working order.

All smoke alarms are now in good working order and are checked on a regular basis, this ensures children's safety is guarded. All necessary consent forms from parents and carers are in place, signed forms are in place giving the childminder permission to take photographs of the children, accident and medication forms are completed in full, all emergency numbers and details are taken on any outings or local trips and the childminder now has copies of the National Standards and Guidance for Under Eights Childminding. This ensures the childminder works in partnership with parents and carers and children's well-being is safeguarded. Children have access to toys and activities appropriate to their age and stage of development that supports their all round development and children are given appropriate opportunities to learn about equality, therefore children have the opportunity to learn through play and at the same time gain an awareness of diversity.

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):

- implement a process to record complaints and share this with parents and carers.

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