



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY291643
Inspection date	02 September 2005
Inspector	Amanda Jane Gray

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 has been registered since 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and four years. They live in a house in a residential area of Canvey Island close to local shops, a lake, park and schools. The whole of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family do not have any pets.

The childminder takes children on outings and is a member of the National

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children receive a high standard of care and are kept comfortable when they are taken ill or have an accident as the childminder follows current guidelines for first aid and administering medication. She has clear verbal policies and procedures which she effectively puts into practice to maintain children's health and well-being.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home and are beginning to learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They follow clear routines such as washing their hands after having been to the toilet and before eating food.

Children have a good understanding of healthy eating because the childminder offers a wide range of healthy foods. She regularly seeks information about healthy diets and nutrition for children, taking individual dietary needs into account. Children are given meals which are appealing and appetising. She offers regular drinks so that children do not become dehydrated when playing, especially in hot weather.

Children develop their physical skills because the childminder provides plenty of different types of activity and creates space in which they can move around in different ways. For example running and dancing to music in the garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a welcoming, well ordered, secure and very safe environment because the childminder has a clear understanding of how to minimise risks to children. Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised by the close supervision the childminder gives to children in her care and the safety measures that are in place in the home.

Children can independently select activities from a broad range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder ensures that children are provided with appropriate resources for their ages and stages of development. This provides children with safe and stimulating play opportunities.

The childminder has a high awareness of child protection and is clear about her responsibilities. She has a good understanding of the correct child protection procedures and is supported in this by clear written information which she can refer too.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed and engage in a wide range of purposeful activities that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. The childminder knows the children in her care well and as a result is able to effectively meet their needs.

Children are starting to develop independence, confidence and good self-esteem through the childminder's use of positive and sensitive handling. Children benefit from the warm and supportive environment in which they are cared for, which contributes to their sense of belonging and security.

Children are encouraged to play and learn from an early age because activities are planned and varied by the childminder. However she does not currently use the Birth to three matters framework. Children enjoy being close and interacting with the childminder but also benefit from freedom of choice.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn to work harmoniously with others because the childminder encourages sharing and co-operation between them. Children's behaviour is good and they are learning right from wrong. They learn through the consistent approach and good example shown by the childminder, in an environment where good behaviour is embraced, praised and encouraged.

Children develop a healthy respect for others and a high awareness of similarities and differences in people and the way they live. The childminder encourages this by providing books and toys that reflect the range of people around them and by allowing them to watch selected television programmes that promote a positive attitude to culture, ethnicity, gender and disability.

Children feel valued because the childminder puts considerable care into meeting their individual needs and takes time to speak regularly with parents. She has a clear understanding of the issues surrounding the care of children with special needs and how this affects both parents and children.

Relationships with parents are excellent and the childminder works hard to ensure a proactive and supportive partnership between herself and the families of the children in her care. She ensures that opportunities are made on a daily basis to share information about children's development to keep parents well informed and included.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder carefully considers how many children she minds at any one time so that she can give them plenty of care and attention. Her routines are consistent yet flexible so that children can feel secure and confident and begin to understand what comes next in their day.

Children are cared for according to their needs because the childminder uses the information she holds effectively to promote their well-being. She keeps her records up to date and reviews them regularly to ensure she has all the correct information about the children.

The childminder has undertaken the childminder training course and a first aid course and has put her skills and knowledge into practice to provide a good standard of care. She is interested in further training which will influence her continuing practice for the benefit of the children. Children are well supervised at all times and checks have been completed to ensure persons in regular contact with the children are suitable and the children remain safe.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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 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):

- develop knowledge and understanding of the needs of children under three, for example through the use of the Birth to three framework.

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