



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY310702
Inspection date	01 November 2006
Inspector	Toni Hanson
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in September 2005. She lives with her husband and their two children aged 10 years and 11 months. The family live in a house in Romford, Essex, which is within walking distance of local schools, shops, parks, bus routes and a main line train station. The ground floor only is used for childminding and a fully enclosed garden is available for outside play.

The childminder is currently registered to care for five children aged under eight years at any one time and is minding two children aged four and five years after school. No children were present at the time of the inspection. The childminder collects children from school and takes them to the local library and park on a regular basis. She speaks English, Arabic and Urdu. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder's home is clean and well-maintained. However, she lacks awareness of the importance of minimizing health risks to children, by ensuring hazardous substances such as toiletries are stored out of their reach. The childminder maintains a high standard of hygiene. Food preparation areas in the kitchen are cleaned with an anti-bacterial spray and areas where children eat, rest and play are cleansed regularly. Satisfactory arrangements are in place to deal with accidents. The childminder holds a current, relevant first aid certificate, maintains a suitably equipped first box and has an appropriate system in place for the recording of accidents.

Discussion suggests that children are provided with nutritious and home cooked meals which meet their individual needs and are offered drinks regularly. The childminder states that children have 'fruit time' each day when they return from school. She provides a choice of four fruits and encourages children to talk about them and be involved in the preparation of the snack, to help them develop healthy eating habits.

The childminder talked about the importance of ensuring children have regular opportunities to be active and further develop their physical skills. She states that children play in the garden each day when the weather is mild and enjoy using the bouncy castle, slide and trikes. In winter months she takes them to the local soft play centre and park. She explained that she also ensures they have opportunities to be active indoors, moving to music and using the dance mat. Suitable arrangements are in place to ensure children have a quiet, comfortable place to rest.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children have ample space to play, a quiet place to rest and a comfortable area to enjoy meals. However, the childminder lacks understanding of possible hazards and safety risks to children. Low level cupboards contain hazardous items such as tools, sharps knives and household cleaning substances. She has not taken action to ensure these risks inside her home are minimised. Fire safety arrangements are satisfactory and include a working smoke alarm at each level of the house and a fire blanket and extinguisher in the kitchen.

Children have access to suitable and safe furniture, toys and equipment. The childminder states that she regularly checks and cleanses these to ensure they remain in good condition. Appropriate safety equipment is in place to protect children, for example socket covers, fire guards and window locks. Discussion indicates that the childminder makes sure children are safe when they go out for walks and on outings. She states that she supervises children appropriately and talks to them about road safety to help them learn how to keep themselves safe.

The childminder verbally demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues. She is clear about her responsibility to protect children from abuse. The childminder has a

secure knowledge about what she needs to do if she has concerns about a child's welfare, to ensure they receive the help and support they need. All adults living in the childminder's home are vetted appropriately to make sure they are suitable to have access to children. The childminder knows she must notify Ofsted promptly if there are changes to the persons living in her household and ensure they are vetted appropriately.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder discussed her settling in procedures and states that children are settled gradually into her care to ensure they and their parents get to know her well before the placement begins formally. Children have access to playroom where a suitable range of toys and books are stored at their level. The playroom is made welcoming through the use of displays of posters and pictures. The childminder talks about how she uses these to help children learn about numbers and the letters of the alphabet. The 'today calendar' poster is used to promote discussion about the days of the week, month, season and weather. She explained that she uses these to help children learn about the passing of time.

Discussion with the childminder shows that she considers it important for children to be given choices after their structured school day. She states that they decide which fruits they want to eat, are involved in the planning of menus and given choices of activities. She talked about the activities she provides for children including art and crafts, reading stories and playing on the slide and swings in the park. Discussion shows that she understands children need a variety of different play experiences and opportunities to be active and play quietly.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder considers it important for children and their parents to feel welcome. She aims to provide a relaxed, friendly environment where children can relax and feel at home. The childminder talks about her commitment to work in partnership with parents and how she keeps them fully informed about her provision and what their children have been doing. She displays useful information on her parents notice board in the playroom. This includes her childminding registration certificate, first aid and introducing childminding practice training certificates, public liability insurance details and relevant childcare information. An appropriate system is in place for dealing with complaints.

The childminder shows a satisfactory knowledge of behaviour management. She states that she encourages children to behave well by explaining her house rules and using discussion to deal with difficulties between children. She considers it important for children to receive praise for positive behaviour, such as helping to pack away their toys. The childminder talks about how she meets the individual needs of children. She spends time getting to know them and their likes and dislikes. Toys and books and activities such as cooking chapattis are used to develop children's awareness of the wider world. The childminder states that children explore their local community when she takes them on outings to the library and park.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder's management of her childminding service is inadequate. Overall, evidence suggests that the provision does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The childminder's documentation is poorly organised. She could not locate most of the regulatory children's records. These are required for the safe management of her childminding service and must be available for inspection at all times. The childminder does not demonstrate a sufficient understanding of regulations relating to childminding documentation.

Although the childminder's home is clean, welcoming and space within it organised well to meet children's needs, she lacks understanding of potential hazards to children's safety and health. Discussion with the childminder indicates that children feel at home and have settled well in her care. Also, that she provides a suitable range of interesting play opportunities for children.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- improve knowledge and understanding of how to identify health and safety risks to children and take the necessary action to minimise these
- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times

- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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