



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY258486
<b>Inspection date</b>	11 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Caroline Preston
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 2003. She lives with her husband and their two children aged one and six years. The family live in a house in Elm Park, Essex, which is within walking distance of local schools and shops. The whole of the property is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have two dogs and one rabbit

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children aged under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding three children under five on a part-time basis and one child over five before and after school. One child was present during the inspection.

The childminder has completed the Introducing Childminding Practice (ICP), Developing Childminding Practice (DCP). She also holds a current first aid certificate.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and a member of an approved childminding network.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

The childminder is a good role model for the children using good hygiene practices during daily routines. For example the childminder washes her hands after changing the baby's nappies and before preparing food, helping the children to become aware of good personal hygiene. Children are given their own individual towels to help prevent the risk of cross infection. Children benefit from a healthy and nutritious diet, they are provided with substantial and well balanced meals which take into consideration children's individual dietary needs. For example menu's that include Shepard's pie, pasta dishes, fruit and vegetables.

The childminder works closely with parents to meet special dietary requirements. Opportunities for children to be active learn to control their bodies and develop their physical skills both indoors and outdoors are good. Children use the large wooden play house in the garden, the large swing as well as bats and balls. They access large play equipment when attending the playgroups the childminder takes them to; they walk frequently when out on trips. For example visits to the local farm. They use a wide range of small tools and equipment with increasing control including, puzzles, cooking tools and art and craft equipment.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children move confidently around the bright, welcoming learning environment both inside and out making choices about their play. Play equipment includes puzzles, car's mats, board games, art and crafts. Space is well organised and used effectively to allow children opportunities to engage in a varied range of activities. The indoor space includes use of the large front room and outside the well maintained child friendly garden.

Children use high quality toys and equipment that are appropriate for their age and stage of development. Furniture is children's height and there is a huge self selection of activities and equipment available. The childminder's vigilance and awareness of safety issues minimises risks and ensures children's safety. The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection issues and is clear regarding her role and responsibilities and of the procedure to follow if she had concerns. This supports children's wellbeing and safeguards their welfare.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is outstanding.

Younger and older children have excellent opportunities to develop their sensory skills. They become creative through an excellent variety of sensory activities, such as playing with play dough, shaving foam and paints, and in small world and role play. They develop a love of books from an early age, as they use the well-resourced book areas. Many toys are stored on low level

shelves where children are able to access them safely; this provides choice and promotes children's self help skills and ability to make decisions for themselves. Children benefit from a warm trusting relationship with the childminder who knows them well. She ensures all children present are able to enjoy the play activities on offer. They are comfortable in her home and confidently select toys for themselves, and choose the activities that they wish to take part in. They enjoy the freedom they receive to explore and develop their own games and are well supported by the childminder to extend their play. Frequent outings to the park for children to play games or trips to local places provide opportunity for them to have fun as well as support their physical development.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

The childminder helps children to settle by asking parents for appropriate information concerning their child's routine and individual needs. This guarantees that she has a good knowledge of the each child's individual needs and contributes considerably to children's well being while in her care. Daily feedback about their child's day keeps parents well informed and helps to provide children with continuity of care. Play materials and resources reflect positive aspects of society however these can be improved to ensure children are able to have more opportunities to learn about the wider world. The childminder works in partnership with parents to have agreed method's to manage children's behaviour. The childminder has not cared for children with disabilities, but ensures children's inclusion by being aware of their individuality, age, stage of development.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from the childminder's excellent organisation of the premises providing them with plenty of space to play and access high quality resources. Children move around the front room easily and are very well stimulated by the toys and easy access to them and that they are age appropriate and stimulating. Children feel at ease, very good daily routines provide children with a varied curriculum including trips to many interesting locations. For example Hornchurch Country Park, and Wellgate farm. Children benefit from the childminder's appropriate vetting procedures.

Children are very well supervised at all times; the childminder is actively alert to what each child is doing, to ensure their safety and well being. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Information kept about children is relevant and paperwork is stored safely, all information and agreements are in place between the childminder and parents to support a professional relationship. Excellent policies and procedures are given to parents, also very well written information about the childminding service. The childminder attends a variety of child care courses to extend her knowledge of childcare practice, which supports the care she gives to the children.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

No actions were made at the last inspection. One recommendation was raised to ensure children have access to toys promoting disability, this has now been met. Children now are able to play with toys including books, dolls, dressing up clothes, small play people figures all of which promote disabilities. However this area can still be improved and it was agreed with the childminder to raise a recommendation to ensure children have access to toys promoting equality.

### **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):

- ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)