



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	504242
Inspection date	26 September 2006
Inspector	S Campbell
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 2001. She lives with her son aged 11 in Dagenham, Essex. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding except the kitchen and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of two children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day. The childminder regularly attend local playgroups, and the family have one cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is generally fostered because the childminder has a good understanding of children's needs. This is further supported because the childminder has obtained appropriate information from parents about children's individual needs and preferences. However, documentation has not been updated to include children's specific dietary requirements.

Children play in a clean environment where they learn the importance of satisfactory routines, such as washing their hands before mealtimes. Children's health is further supported by encouraging them to wash their hands with antibacterial hand soap, and appropriate procedures are followed when changing young children to minimise the spread of cross infection. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate. This means she can give appropriate care if there is an accident.

Children benefit from freshly prepared meals and snacks such as pasta, chicken and vegetables. Children's daily food intake is regularly shared with parents and they receive plenty of drinks throughout the day. Children benefit from regular outings to community groups and parks, which contribute to their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally safe because there are satisfactory safety measures in place, such as the use of safety gates and children are escorted to and from the bathroom. This allows children to move freely and comfortably. However, potential dangers sited in the garden have not been addressed to maximise children's safety. There are clear procedures in place for outings to ensure children's safety, such as when travelling in the car children are strapped in car seats and booster seats have been obtained for older children. However, written parental consent has not been obtained when taking children on public transport.

Children have easy and safe access to a range of resources that are appropriate for their age and stage of development. The childminder ensures toys and resources are safe for children's access because she regularly checks the resources for their safety.

The childminder has a sound understanding of children protection issues and her role in protecting children. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well settled in their environment and have good relationships with the childminder. Children enjoy individual time spent with the childminder and they receive a lot of warmth throughout the day, such as cuddles. This builds upon their self esteem and confidence. The

childminder provides opportunities for younger children to participate in basic cooking activities, for example icing fairy cakes.

Younger children's language development is well supported because the childminder responds attentively to toddler sounds and asks good open ended questions. Children regularly attend community groups and planned trips that allow them to interact with their peers and others, for example Kids Kingdom and playgroups. The childminder creates opportunities for children to engage in basic role play to develop their imaginative skills. They are developing good concentration skills when playing with chosen activities, for example the toaster and microwave. The childminder is able to talk about children's stage of development in great detail. Worthwhile resources have been obtained, for example pop up books relating to toileting to aid children's potty training. The childminder's gentle approach helps support children to move onto their next stage of development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their different needs are appropriately met through discussions between the childminder and parents. Children learn about the wider community through planned trips, such as going on nature walks, shopping and visiting places of interest. Children are beginning to gain an understanding of different cultures and beliefs because they have access to a good range of resources that promote positive images.

Children are well behaved and respond to requests for good behaviour. The childminder uses appropriate methods, such as simple explanation and taking away rewards, to help children to develop an understanding of right and wrong.

The childminder has good relationships with parents. Children's progress is shared verbally with parents on a regular basis. Relevant documentation is shared with parents, such as the accident and medication book. This ensures continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder maintains appropriate records. This ensures the well-being of children is safeguarded. However, some records are not well maintained, namely obtaining parental permission for taking children on public transport and the information about children's specific dietary requirements.

Children are cared for in a reasonably safe and secure environment. The childminder provides an environment that is warm and family orientated. The childminder uses her time well to spend time with children, which allows them to feel at ease and comfortable in their surroundings.

Documentation kept on children and their parents is stored securely to ensure confidentiality is maintained. Most required documentation is in place, appropriately organised and readily available for inspection. The childminder meets the needs of range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to undertake a first aid course for infants and young children; extend the range of resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice; include details of activities provided in the written agreement with parents; obtain consent for emergency medical treatment and plan activities to ensure that children's learning is extended.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate, which means she is able to give children appropriate care in the event of an accident. Children now have access to a range of resources that promote positive images of gender, disability, ethnicity and culture. The childminder verbally shares information with parents about children's progress and play on a regular basis. The childminder has obtained written parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Children engage in a range of activities both indoor and outdoor to extend their learning experiences.

Complaints since the last inspection

Ofsted has received one complaint since the last inspection relating to National Standard 1: Suitable Person; National Standard 9: Equal Opportunities and National Standard 11: Behaviour Management. Concerns were raised on the 24th April 2006 regarding the suitability of the childminder. Ofsted liaised with outside agencies and carried out an unannounced visit on the 5th May 2006. None of the concerns were substantiated. However, some breaches of national standards were noted and the following actions were set: Ensure that all conditions of registration are met at all times; Ensure you maintain a daily record of the names and ages of the children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance; Ensure you maintain up to date records of all the children you mind which includes their name, home address, date of birth and name, home address and telephone number of a parent; ensure that Ofsted is notified of all significant events. Ofsted was satisfied that by taking these steps the provider met the National Standards and remained qualified for registration at the time the investigation was closed.

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 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):

- update information about children's individual needs, preferences including specific dietary requirements
- address and make safe potential dangers sited in the garden
- obtain written parental consent for taking children on public transport.

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