



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	118855
<b>Inspection date</b>	18 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 satisfactory. 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 1997. She lives with her foster daughter aged 14 years. The family live in a house in Hornchurch 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 childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children aged under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding one child under five all day on a part-time basis. There were no children present at the time of the inspection.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrated a clear understanding of the importance of promoting a range of opportunities for healthy exercise for children. Including use of the large apparatus and physical play activities offered at her local parents and toddler groups she attends with minded children. Play in her safe and secure garden of her home, toys including bikes, cars, bats and balls and ring games. The environment is clean and well maintained. The childminder showed a sound knowledge of how to promote children's good health; for example she ensures they wash their hands before eating and after going to the toilet. The childminder has established appropriate procedures for administration of medication with parent's written consent. However, the childminder's first aid certificate has elapsed, which does not enable her to be kept informed of relevant changes in first aid procedures.

The childminder shows a clear understanding of the importance of a healthy diet, and offers children foods such as dried fruits, sandwiches, yogurts and a range of breakfast cereals. She also works with parents wishes so that children can bring their own packed lunches if they choose to. She is aware that children may have special dietary or religious requirements and meets each child's needs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Discussion and observation with the childminder suggests that she has taken appropriate precautions to ensure risks in her home have been minimised, so that children can play safely. Children are supervised well and currently on a one to one basis. She teaches children about safety by holding their hands when crossing the road, whilst explaining the dangers.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection issues. She knows what action she needs to take if she has any concerns about a child in her care, which promotes and safeguards children's welfare. The childminder describes how she uses available space effectively to meet children's different needs and ensure they are safe and comfortable, for example the large clear floor space in the front room where children would be able to move freely. The childminder has organised toys so that children can safely access a good range of toys which are frequently changed from where they are stored upstairs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder describes ways in which she plans and encourages children to learn and develop, for example through books and puzzles, large physical play. She supports children's development through taking them to local groups, to encourage social interaction, and offer opportunities to play with a good range of play resources, take part in group games and go on regular trips. The childminder describes how she encourages children to behave well by praising them. She

demonstrates that she puts a lot of emphasis on developing good relationships with children, so they are confident in approaching her.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Discussion with the childminder suggests that children are very much valued and respected as individuals. The daily routine is flexible and children are able to visit the local parents and toddler group and take part in a range of activities including celebrating a range of different festivals. The childminder has a good range of resources which promote children's awareness of other cultures and abilities. She showed a sound knowledge of behaviour management, giving good examples of how she would approach a variety of situations. The childminder makes time for daily conversation with parents about what their child has been doing. She ensures all information needed to care for their child is gathered and stored safely.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates that she has a satisfactory approach to her childminding role. She shows she effectively supports children's individual needs by flexible planning of the childminding day. She protects children by ensuring she follows appropriate vetting procedures. All required documentation and record keeping systems are in place, available for inspection and stored safely. Children are kept safe and their welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's satisfactory understanding of required policies and procedures. Overall the evidence suggests that the provision would meet the needs of the children for whom it provides. However the childminder did not inform Ofsted that she is now a foster carer, therefore has breached a regulation and committed an offence.

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

At the last inspection the provider was asked to ensure that smoke alarms were tested on a regular basis, this is now carried out regularly, which supports the safety of the children.

### **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 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 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):

- make sure a current first aid certificate is maintained
- develop a greater understanding of the regulatory responsibilities required of a childminder.

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)