



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	403424
Inspection date	12 September 2006
Inspector	Tina Anne Mason
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 was registered in 1993. He lives with his wife and adult daughter in Chadwell St Marys, Grays in Essex. The whole of the premises is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years at any one time and is currently minding three children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children, takes children to the library and to the local park. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from cross infection by the excellent standards of hygiene maintained by the childminder within his home. Children's good health and general well-being is promoted by the childminder's very good knowledge of first aid, which is supported by a current first aid certificate and an accessible first aid kit.

Young children's emotional needs are valued. The childminder gives reassurance, cuddles and praise throughout the day. Children are welcomed by the childminder's friendly approach. For example, the childminder uses happy facial expressions and positive body language when interacting with young children on their arrival and throughout the day.

Children's dietary needs are well met. The childminder works in partnership with parents and carers to meet each child's individual needs. Children benefit from healthy snacks and drinks. The childminder's policies and practice promote healthy, wholesome food which ensures children are well nourished and extends children's understanding of a healthy diet.

Children enjoy a wide range of physical activities which contribute to their good health. They use the swing, slide and climbing frame in the large garden and regularly visit the local park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure home where hazards are minimised and various precautions are in place to protect them. For example, frequent fire drills and the testing of fire alarms are carried out on a monthly basis, however, this information is not currently being documented.

Children are able to move around the environment safely and freely as the childminder adopts good routines. Regular checking and cleaning of toys and resources ensure children are kept safe. Children independently select activities from an extensive range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder ensures activities are appropriate for the children, considering their individual needs, interests and abilities.

The childminder has all the required written procedures and documents in place. He has an excellent understanding of child protection procedures in line with the current guidelines and is committed to attending on-going training to ensure the children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic, happy and confidently choose toys and resources for themselves. They are motivated and interested in the good range of purposeful indoor and outdoor activities

which provide stimulating levels of challenge, appropriate to their age and stage of development. For example, children enjoy building towers with different coloured bricks and are confident in using the large climbing frame and slide in the garden. Children benefit well from the effective praise and nurturing environment created by the childminder, this contributes to their sense of belonging and security.

Children are provided with a variety of creative materials, such as drawing, play dough, cutting and sticking, giving them the opportunity to take part in new and exciting activities and explore new language.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child development, he is very confident in supporting children in their play providing a stimulating environment that allows children to respond with enthusiasm to new challenges.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and show care and concern for others. The children's behaviour is very good in response to the childminder's praise and encouragement and clear boundaries. The childminder takes time to get to know the children in his care so that he can meet their individual needs. For example, all children are encouraged to use Makaton sign language when communicating with each other.

Children benefit from the very good partnership the childminder has established with parents and carers. The childminder welcomes parents and carers and keeps them well informed on a daily basis about activities, routines, sleep patterns and meals.

Children learn about the wider world in a meaningful way, the childminder provides a range of toys and resources to develop children's awareness of differences and similarities. Children learn about the local community as they walk to the local parks and visit local amenities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises his time well. He spends most of his day being actively involved with the children while still enabling the children to enjoy the normal routines of family life. Records are well maintained to support the welfare, care and development of the children.

The well-being of children is safeguarded by the systems that the childminder has in place, such as child record forms and the daily record of children's attendance clearly details the times of their arrival and departure. Children are cared for in an environment where all adults have been vetted and systems are in place to ensure their safety.

The children benefit from the childminder having a clear understanding of his role as a carer, his commitment to on-going training and the well organised environment. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to carry out the following recommendations: Ensure all people over sixteen years living on the premises are suitably vetted and obtain written parental permission for transporting children in a car.

All necessary consent forms from parents and carers are in place, signed forms are in place giving the childminder permission to transport children in his car and all persons living on the premises have undertaken all the necessary checks ensuring they are suitably vetted. This ensures the childminder works in partnership with parents and carers and children's well-being is safeguarded.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- document dates and times of all fire drills carried out.

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