



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401527
Inspection date	14 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 1995. She lives with her husband and two adult children in 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 five children at any one time and is currently minding two 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 local 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's good health is promoted by the childminder's good routines for ensuring the home is clean, they learn the importance of hygiene and personal care. Established hygiene routines

and explanations increase children's understanding of the importance of washing their hands to help maintain good health.

Children's dietary needs are well met. Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet, they can help themselves to drinking water or juice from their accessible cups and beakers throughout the day. The childminder works in partnership with parents and carers to meet each child's individual needs. Children benefit from healthy meals and snacks. The childminder has a good understanding of what constitutes as a healthy, nutritious diet.

Children have daily opportunities to be out in the fresh air and acquire physical skills. They enjoy regular visits to the local parks and shops. Arrangement of furniture in the home allows young children to move around freely and safely. Children's good health and general well-being is promoted by the childminder's knowledge of first aid, which is supported by a current first aid certificate and a sick child procedure.

Young children sleep and rest in line with their needs and parents and carers wishes. Their emotional needs are valued, the childminder gives lots of reassurance, cuddles and positive praise throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a home where they can relax and play safely. The childminder is conscientious in her responsibility to minimise hazards and help the children to understand how to keep themselves safe. Children are learning about keeping themselves safe inside and outside of the home because the childminder takes time to explain safety issues carefully with them.

Children enjoy using a good range of toys and equipment which meet safety standards. They independently select activities. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder has all of the required written procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she holds a current first aid certificate. The childminder has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with the current guidelines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children have an active week with a good balance of play in the home and outings to the local community. They are familiar with trips to Grays park and Grays beach as part of their routine. The children are gaining social skills as they visit toddler groups together. This also enables the children to access a wider range of equipment and play opportunities.

Children are motivated and interested in a broad range of activities which provide stimulating levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. For example, children

enjoy decorating t-shirts with fabric pens. The childminder has a good working knowledge of child development. She is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework, but does not use it to plan regular activities with the younger children.

The childminder interacts in a friendly way with the children and helps them to join in with play. The children benefit from her active involvement, for example, they sit together when drawing and colouring pictures. The children have plenty of resources to choose from and are busy and engaged. The childminder rotates equipment so that the children show fresh interest in the selection of items available.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children receive a warm welcome from the childminder, who works effectively to help them feel included. The children are learning to play together and they are becoming familiar with concepts like sharing and taking turns. The childminder intervenes well to help younger children play fairly and she remains calm and patient.

The children are familiar with simple house rules that have realistic expectations of the age range of minded children. Children receive positive praise from the childminder.

Children are provided with resources and play materials which promote equality of opportunity. A selection of good quality toys, activities and materials are available to aid children in becoming aware of the wider world.

The childminder builds up good relationships with the parents of the children she minds. New families can read many of her aims and policies in a neat file of information. Parents receive appropriate feedback about how the day has gone. The childminder works closely with parents on issues such as dietary requirements, so that the adults work together to meet the needs of the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and secure in the care of the childminder. She uses her policies and procedures effectively in practice to promote outcomes for children. The space within the home is organised well so that children can play freely and choose resources independently. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder stores documentation securely to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality. She is well organised in the way she keeps all relevant information accessible. Good systems are in place to ensure that all adults in the household are vetted and children are never left with unregistered persons.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to carry out the following recommendation. Ensure contents of first aid kit are kept up to date.

Contents of first aid kit are up to date and checked for their suitability on a regular basis, therefore children's well-being is promoted in the event of an accident occurring.

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):

- improve the outcomes for children from birth to three by using an approach in line with 'Birth to three matters'.

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