



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY292941
Inspection date	12 May 2005
Inspector	Patricia Mary Champion

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2004. She lives with her husband and 8 children aged between 19 and 3 years. They live in a house in a residential area of Leigh on Sea close to the local beach, shops, library and schools. The whole of the property, except the loft conversion, is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child aged two years during the day and four children aged under eight years before and after school. The childminder either walks to

school to take and collect children or she uses the car.

The family keep goldfish in a bowl as pets.

The childminder takes children on outings and attends the local childminding group on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through the daily routines. They independently wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Children enjoy eating freshly cooked nutritious meals and are encouraged to make healthy choices. The childminder ensures that she is aware of allergies and other special dietary requirements so that children's individual needs are well met. Meals are carefully prepared to keep children healthy; the childminder holds a food hygiene certificate.

Children's medical needs are mostly met well. The childminder is attending a first aid course and there are clear procedures for administering medication. However, medication records are not kept fully up to date and parents have not yet given written permission for the childminder to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children are given opportunities to take part in physical activities. A range of outdoor play equipment is provided and daily walks are made to and from school.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and explore in a safe and comfortable environment. Good use is made of safety items such as stair gates, socket covers and safety catches which help children understand about hazards and safety issues. The garden has been specifically adapted so that younger children have easy access to the play house and ramps have been installed to allow children to play on the different levels of the outdoor area.

Children have a very good understanding of road safety. Their practical road sense is developed by the childminder as they walk to and from school. The childminder has just started using a car to transport children. However, the childminder has not yet checked if she has appropriate car insurance and parents have not yet given written permission for children to go on outings or to be transported in the car.

Children are kept safe as the childminder is aware of her child protection responsibilities. However, she has not yet seen the recommended literature regarding child protection issues to keep her up to date with current procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children find the range of activities offered enjoyable and interesting. The school-age children can choose freely from the toys on offer and select from further play equipment and books stored in the conservatory. Children confidently request any additional items they need, such as batteries to make things work. Good creative opportunities are provided after school as children design pictures using sponges, brushes and different coloured paint. They play imaginatively with small world figures and vehicles, acting out stories and adventures. The play station is very popular and children enjoy reading the library books.

Interaction between the childminder and the children is friendly and lively. The children discuss their likes and interests at mealtimes. The childminder clearly knows the children well and responds and encourages them to talk about their day and what they are doing.

Children enjoy social activities. Regular visits are made to the childminding group and during warm weather outings to the park or the beach are very popular.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and play co-operatively together. They share toys, take turns on play equipment and help to tidy up. The children are kept busy and involved in their play and they understand right from wrong. Their behaviour is managed positively and consistently.

Children use library books, dressing up clothes and dolls to learn about diversity and to respect differences and the needs of others.

Children benefit as the childminder builds friendly and helpful relationships with parents. She offers flexible care to cover shift patterns and gathers information about each child so that happy relationships are formed and the children settle quickly.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a comfortable and well organised home. They feel at ease and settled into the setting. Play space and resources are arranged to meet the children's needs effectively. The efficient daily routine is organised around taking children to and from school and adult: child ratios are met at all times. The required documentation is mostly in place. However, consent agreements have not yet been requested. All paperwork is kept securely with a high regard for confidentiality.

Training such as attending the Introduction to Childminding Practice supports the childminder's practice. The children of school age also benefit from the various

courses she has attended through her work with the church and youth work experiences. All adults in the family home have been checked through the Criminal Records Bureau, however one child in the family has now reached 16 years and is currently completing forms for the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB.)

The provision meets the needs of the children that currently attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable as this is the first inspection following registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 that medication records are kept up to date
- request parental permission for seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment, taking children on outings and transporting children in the car
- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, for example by obtaining the current recommended literature.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk