



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY334915
Inspection date	07 November 2006
Inspector	Ann Marie Cozzi
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 2006. She lives with her son aged eight years in Sawbridgeworth. The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under five years at any one time. There is currently one child on roll attending part time.

The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children and is happy to childminder attends the local parent/toddler group.

The family has a cat as a family pet.

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 because there are good systems in place to minimise the spread of infection. Such as separate towels and flannels for each child. The childminder ensures that there is a regular cleaning routine in place and children are encouraged to follow good hygiene routines. For example, younger children have their hands washed before and after meals.

In the event of children becoming unwell contact is made with parents and children receive care and attention until they arrive. If children are infectious then they are excluded from the provision until they are better. There are appropriate systems in place for the childminder to administer medication and to record accidents. However, there is a weakness in the system for gaining parental consent for emergency medical treatment.

Children benefit from the range of balanced meals available. Healthy snacks consist of fruit and vegetables. Parents currently provide lunches for their children and the childminder ensures that the food is stored appropriately. Children have access to drinks throughout the day.

Children enjoy physical activity because the childminder plans a good range of opportunities for active play. These include access to the fully enclosed garden weather permitting and regular trips out for example, to the soft play centre and toddler group.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a bright, well maintained and welcoming environment. They are well supervised and are always in view and earshot of the childminder.

Safe practice is promoted particularly well with young children. Their safety is considered through ensuring they access toys and equipment that are safe and in good condition and a number of safety measures are in place. These include electrical socket covers, a high level lock on the front door and a safety gate fitted at the foot of the stairs. Children are becoming increasingly aware of their boundaries and are offered explanations. This in turn helps them learn about what is or is not acceptable in order to keep them and others safe.

The protection of children is regarded as of high importance by the childminder. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has undertaken child protection training and as a result has developed a good understanding of related issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and well settled with the childminder. They are well supported by her and as a result they are confident to approach her and are able to express their needs without hesitation. Toys are of a good quality and well organised enabling children to make choices

such as selecting resources for themselves. However the current provision of toys is a little limited.

Children enjoy sitting having a cuddle and looking at books with the childminder and show great enjoyment as they share the pop up books and mimic the sounds of the different animals. The childminder values and promotes younger children's communication skills well, as she listens attentively and responds to their gestures and sounds. She has attended training in the 'Birth to three matters' framework resulting in the younger children's individual development needs being well met.

Children benefit from the childminder's knowledge of each child resulting in activities provided being directed by children's own particular interests and needs. This assists in supporting and promoting their development in all areas.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children receive good individual care because their needs and circumstances are well known to the childminder. They are encouraged and supported to participate in all activities through the warm and positive language used.

Children are developing an awareness of the wider community through regular trips out. However there is a weakness in the range of resources that reflect positive images of gender, race, culture and varying needs. The range of play materials on offer are rotated and the quality of resources accessible to children is enhanced by regular attendance of the local toddler group.

Children are happy and co-operative in the care of the childminder. They are rewarded for their good behaviour by the use of lots of praise and recognition for their achievements. This in turn, reinforces the good behaviour and promotes their self-esteem.

Children's sense of security and belonging is fostered well through the working partnership between the childminder and parents. A developing range of information relating to the care and service offered is available for parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The available space is well organised which enhances care and maximises play opportunities. Children are very happy, comfortable and settled in this caring environment which is bright and welcoming. The management of care is promoting an awareness of how to keep each child safe, healthy and be able to make choices.

The childminder has completed the required training. She has also completed further training in 'Basic food hygiene', 'Child Protection' and the 'Birth to three matters framework'. This ensures that she is up-to-date with current childcare practice.

Most documentation is in place and supports the care, learning and play. It is well organised and children's records are well maintained and stored confidentially.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 may see on request. The complaints log may contain complaints other than those known 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):

- develop systems in place to include parental consent for emergency medical treatment
- further develop the range of resources available to children
- increase play materials which reflect diversity.

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