



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY300096
Inspection date	09 May 2005
Inspector	Janette Elaina Langford

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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged five and nine years. The childminder lives in the Lee Chapel North area of Basildon. the whole of the house is registered and there is a fully enclosed garden.

The house is in walking distance of the shops, park, library and various pre-school groups. Primary schools are nearby and it is a short walk to the station.

The family have two pet cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop healthy appetites and eating habits because the childminder is sensitive to their patterns of eating and particular likes and dislikes. She regularly discusses food and drink with parents so that children have consistency in their diet. The childminder is committed to further training in food hygiene and healthy cooking for children to ensure that children can benefit from healthy and appetising choices.

Children are kept comfortable when they feel unwell as the childminder keeps a close eye on their health, noting any changes such as a red cheek or a runny nose. She is aware to take account of children's needs in the daily routine making sure there is sufficient time for rest. Records relating to illness and accidents are kept up to date and the children's individual health needs are met appropriately. For example, having prior permission to seek emergency treatment meant that the childminder could take a child to hospital following an accident at school.

Nappy changing is well managed to ensure babies are comfortable and relaxed. The childminder employs hygienic practices to prevent any cross infection and takes the time to talk and play with the baby.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children can move around safely and independently in the home because the childminder effectively identifies and minimises risks to children. She locates toys and equipment at their level so that they can safely select resources in different areas. Children feel secure as they are within sight and sound of the childminder, even whilst she is cooking she ensures they are close but kept safely away from hazards. The childminder provides appropriate safety equipment for outings both in the car and on foot to ensure children are safe and comfortable.

Plans to make the garden more child friendly and appealing by raising the height of the fence and incorporating different areas for play will extend children's play opportunities and experiences. The childminder is aware to make alternative arrangements for outside play so that children can still access a full range of good quality activities.

Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted. The childminder has all required procedures and documents in place. For example she holds a current first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident; they are encouraged and praised by the childminder in all they do. She enables the children to anticipate what comes next in the day and to take an active part; they know when it is time to eat, sleep and play due to well ordered routines. Children enjoy good quality interaction with the childminder who makes every part of the routine a fun learning experience by asking questions, repeating short words and sounds with the baby and responding to his body language.

Children are able to make choices from the wide range of activities on offer. The childminder encourages babies to learn and enjoy safe everyday objects such as the wonder of a lemonade bottle with bubbles inside. Everyday experiences, such as looking out of a low window at the cars passing by and the children playing, are built into the routine so that babies are able to begin to bring meaning to their world.

Older children can relax and unwind before their parents collect them as the childminder provides appropriate activities when they come home from school.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's interest in our similarities and differences is fostered by use of an extended range of toys and equipment to reflect diversity. The childminder uses other means such as selected television programmes in addition to opportunities arising from children's natural curiosity.

Children are valued and develop self assurance by receiving frequent praise and encouragement from the childminder. She is cheerful and her positive disposition with the children is reflected in their enjoyment of her company. Children play well with others and are well behaved. The childminder treats all children with equal concern and has consistent boundaries which they can understand.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel secure in the well organised environment and with well organised routines. The baby's routine is unhurried with plenty of time at home for playing, sleeping and eating whilst incorporating the necessary daily activities such as collecting children from school. The baby's development is fostered during planned one to one and quiet times.

Children benefit from appropriate individual care. Effective use of policies and procedures promotes their welfare and learning. The childminder shares these with parents and keeps a daily note of what children have eaten whilst in her care, ensuring parents are informed and that continuity of care is provided for the children.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has increased the provision of toys and equipment reflecting diversity.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints since the last inspection.

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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):

- minimise hazards in the garden area (this refers to low level fencing on the right hand side).

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