



## Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY300991    |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 10 May 2005 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Anne Daly   |

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Type of inspection</b> | Childcare    |
| <b>Type of care</b>       | 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](http://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.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and 2 children, aged 3 and 10 years, in a residential area of Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex. The childminder sometimes works with an assistant and is also a foster carer. The ground floor and upstairs bathroom of the childminder's home are used for childminding, with a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She is currently minding 2 children aged under 5 and a 7 year old before and after school. The childminder walks to Burnham County Primary School and to local

Pre-schools to take and collect children. The childminder takes children to the sea front, library and town centre. The family has a fish tank.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and of the local childminding group.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Younger children are beginning to develop knowledge and understanding about themselves and how their bodies work. They are discovering the importance of personal hygiene by washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet. However, the childminder does not always take precautions to prevent the spread of infection after changing nappies.

Children enjoy lunches provided by their parents and healthy snacks prepared by the childminder. Older children make choices and have opportunities to taste and explore likes and dislikes. Younger children freely help themselves to beakers of drinks from child height furniture. The childminder regularly offers drinks and works with parents to share and discuss menus to meet children's needs.

Younger children are being helped and appropriately supported by the childminder. She is beginning to use the Birth to Three Matters Framework to inform her practice. A safe enclosed outside play area enables children to exercise and to play in the fresh air. Children are developing physical skills, such as turning pages of books and pushing a buggy around the room.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Risks to children are minimised by the childminder regularly checking equipment and toys. Children's safety is a priority as the childminder uses safety equipment, such as harnesses, when young children are using high dining chairs. Children's independence is encouraged by the childminder allowing them to choose from a varied range of safe toys appropriate for their age.

Children's safety is paramount when out walking, because the childminder assesses the dangers well. She has younger children in a buggy or on wrist straps, while older children walk in front of her.

Young children can practice newly acquired skills in safe surroundings. Children are cared for in a secure environment, although smoke alarms are not currently installed at all levels of the premises to ensure children's safety in the event of a fire.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted appropriately. Parents are made aware of the child protection procedures and the childminder's responsibility should

there be a concern regarding a child's safety.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's home. Younger children are confident in their relationships with the childminder and they socialise with other children through regular attendance at pre-school. The childminder organises a wide range of activities to meet children's individual needs and to provide them with opportunities for role play and dressing up. Children are able to take on different roles to encourage communication, such as buying items from a shop. The use of books encourages children to listen and to respond appropriately, such as by pressing buttons and singing the appropriate songs to the music. Children explore with a range of creative materials, such as paint, sticking and play dough to help them to express their experiences, feelings and ideas in a variety of ways. They are given individual attention and are helped to count and to focus on shapes through the use of everyday experiences.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children form good relationships with the childminder and others. The sensitive use of books and some resources help children become aware of diversity and the world around them. Children are supported well because the childminder works closely with their parents. She supports and encourages all children to gain confidence and to try new things.

The childminder's clear and consistent expectations and trust in children's abilities help them to increase their self confidence. She responds in a positive way to children and reinforces their good behaviour with plenty of praise. Children are helped to resolve problems and conflicts, such as learning to understand turn taking when selecting popular resources.

Children settle and become confident in their surroundings due to co-operation and the sharing of information between their parents and the childminder. A daily contact book informs parents of activities a child has particularly enjoyed and any significant achievements. This ensures that they are well informed and aware of progress made.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home with the childminder and are able to develop independence due to well planned activities and resources. They have plenty of space and can safely explore both inside and outside due to appropriately implemented procedures.

Some policies and procedures are in place to ensure the health, safety and well

being of children. The childminder maintains records and has the majority of the necessary information for each child to enable her to act in their best interests at all times.

The childminder is committed to attending Introduction to Childminding training to develop and support her childminding practices.

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

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not Applicable.

### **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):

- improve fire safety precautions by providing ground and first floor smoke alarms conforming to BS EN standards
- review nappy changing procedures to prevent the spread of infection.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)