



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY317375
Inspection date	09 March 2007
Inspector	Greg Wolff
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 2005. She lives with her husband and four children aged 12, 10, seven and four years in Basildon, Essex. The whole of the childminder's house except the main bedroom is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She is currently minding three children under five part-time and one child under five full-time. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school. The childminder attends a number of local groups.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder is aware that children must learn the importance of personal hygiene. She encourages children to learn about keeping themselves clean and healthy independently by reinforcing hand washing at appropriate times, for example after using the toilet.

The childminder ensures that all food is healthy and prepared in line with current hygiene standards. Drinks are made available throughout the day. The childminder ensures that she is aware of allergies and other special dietary requirements so that children's individual needs are met.

Children have regular access to physical play as the childminder provides some activities at home and regular visits to the local parks. This ensures that children have the opportunity to be fully active and explore the changes that occur in their bodies when doing exercise. They are all able to rest and sleep according to their needs, in the home.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder is aware of ensuring children's safety. She checks her home regularly to make sure that any potential hazards are minimised.

Children use a range of safe and developmentally suitable resources which are appropriately organised and easily accessible to encourage independence. However, they have not had the opportunity to practise leaving the premises quickly in case of an emergency.

The childminder takes precautions to ensure that children and babies are suitably dressed when they go outside and she takes all their contact details with her so children's safety is not compromised outside the home.

Children are protected as the childminder is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and the appropriate procedures to follow if she has any concerns. These are discussed with parents prior to minding to ensure that they are kept well informed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children develop close and caring relationships with the childminder, her family and each other. Children's vocabulary and language have the opportunity to develop well through continuous interaction. The childminder uses open ended questions and allows the children to respond in their own way, looking at them and showing an interest in what they are trying to say.

Children have a number of opportunities to make progress when they attend the childminder. She has started to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to underpin her work with babies

and younger children. Children attend the library regularly, and have a number of other opportunities to socialise with others outside the premises, for example at the local toddler group

Children respond enthusiastically to the activities provided, particularly reading books which they enjoy choosing themselves. The childminder has a variety of resources which children have free and independent access to throughout the day.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder uses effective techniques to ensure that unwanted behaviour is kept to a minimum. At present, she knows that talking to younger children in different tones of voice is effective. Children are developing independence within their daily routines and they make choices about what they play with.

Children have opportunities to gain an awareness of people from other cultures and with differing needs through the resources which the childminder provides. The childminder is aware of the need to discuss festivals of all religions at the appropriate times in the year and to allow children to take part in activities which help them learn about different cultures. Children are able to communicate their own needs and beliefs in a supportive environment.

No children attending have special needs but the childminder is aware of the possible issues this would involve and the implications for their care and the care of other minded children.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that children's needs are met. She offers them daily written and verbal feedback and ensures that they keep her informed of relevant information from their home. Parents are shown the care and admission procedures prior to minding and sign their agreement as part of the childminder's "open door" policy.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The range and quality of activities and opportunities provided indoors are suitable for all children. The setting is homely and well-organised to support children in their play and appropriate storage ensures that children of all ages become independent.

Required documentation is all in place and is stored appropriately and with confidentiality in mind. Children's needs are met because of the close relationship that the childminder has with parents who recognise the professional service they receive. Visitors to the setting are asked for identification and are not left alone with minded children at any time. However, the daily register is not always completed at appropriate times.

The childminder has completed appropriate first aid training and the childminder pre-registration course and has also attended a number of other courses to ensure that she provides a quality service.

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 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):

- ensure that children have opportunities to take part in a fire drill
- ensure that the daily attendance register is completed at appropriate times.

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