



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	250597
Inspection date	09 March 2007
Inspector	Lynn Clements
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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1999. She lives with her son. They live in a residential area of Haverhill. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding four children under five-years-old on a part time basis. She also cares for one child over eight years of age. The childminder organises her daily routines around school runs. She attends the local parent and toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn how to protect themselves from germs as they practise washing their hands after using the toilet or before meals. Hand towels are changed regularly to minimise the risk of cross-contamination and wipes are used when out and about. The childminder shares a verbal sick child policy with parents to help prevent the spread of infection. Individual records are completed by parents and maintained by the childminder to ensure she has the relevant information regarding any medical or dietary requirements; these are updated on a regular basis to ensure children's changing needs continue to be met. The childminder obtains clear written instructions from parents about the administration of any medication and accurate records are maintained and shared with parents to keep children safe and healthy. The childminder has attended relevant first aid training to ensure children are appropriately cared for in the event of an accident. All accidents occurring on the premises are recorded and signed by parents to ensure they are kept fully informed.

Children benefit from the childminder's good knowledge and understanding of childhood nutrition. Parents provide healthy meals and snacks everyday and the childminder ensures children receive fresh fruit to help towards their recommended five a day. Children learn to keep themselves fit and healthy as they discuss and learn about foods which are good for them and those which are not so good. They explore their personal likes and dislikes supported sensitively by the childminder who encourages them to try new varieties of fruit. In addition, children learn to lead a healthy lifestyle; they take part in regular exercise such as playing in the garden, running around the park and using large apparatus and wheeled toys at the local toddler groups. This enables them to build on their existing skills and increases their confidence to use a wide range of equipment that provides challenge.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The organisation of the play space along with checks of all child accessible areas ensures the environment remains safe for children. However, while no persons can enter the property from outside the front door has not been made secure to prevent children leaving unescorted. Toys and resources are regularly checked and cleaned so they remain in good condition for children to use. Children are able to move freely and make their own choices about the activities and games they want to play. The provision of child-height accessible storage enables children to extend their own play and learning. The childminder encourages them to tidy away afterwards to prevent tripping hazards.

Children are supervised at all times. The childminder takes positive steps to help children understand how to keep themselves safe. For example, older children know that when the baby has gone to bed it is safe for them to play with their more intricate small toys which may pose a choking hazard when baby is around. All children practise 'road safety' and 'stranger danger' when out and about to keep themselves safe from harm. However, the childminder does not have parental permission in place regarding visits out and about. The childminder is careful to

check the identification of visitors and never lets children leave with adults she has not met and agreed with parents that it is safe to do so.

The childminder has an adequate understanding about her responsibilities with regards to child protection and has relevant child protection guidelines in place to ensure children's welfare remains paramount.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and secure in the childminder's home. They explore activities independently and the use of child-accessible storage enables them to make their own choices. They have good opportunities to investigate and develop their skills in all areas of learning. Children concentrate as they share stories with the childminder. Babies sit on her lap while toddlers cuddle up and help hold the book and turn the pages. They explore the story pointing out the different jungle animals and noticing all the bright colours. Children concentrate as they explore battery operated toys with interest pressing the different buttons to see what sound it makes or watch the flashing lights. They build tall houses and 3D models using various types of building bricks. Children use creative materials, such as, role play resources and enjoy creating pretend picnics which enables them to build on their ideas and games based on real and imagined experiences. Regular trips to the local mother and toddler groups and the park increases children's confidence to socialise with others and learn about the world in which they live.

The childminder listens carefully to children, giving them time to share their thoughts and ideas. She helps and encourages them as they share stories, play games and talk about going to 'big school'. The childminder uses plenty of positive praise and encouragement to develop children's interest and participation. Children try different activities and share their ideas without fear of failure.

Younger children are developing their independence physically and emotionally. They are active and are becoming increasingly independent, acquiring control over their bodies. The childminder encourages them to become vocal, for example, through imitation and they begin to use appropriate language and gestures to communicate their needs. The childminder has a good understanding of the needs to the younger children and provides appropriate activities and resources to support their physical and emotional development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Discussion with parents prior to placement provides the childminder with relevant background information about each child; this is used well to help them settle. There are sufficient positive resources enabling children to explore diversity. The childminder ensures that there is no bias in her practice in relation to gender, race or disability. Parents are consulted about any special services that may be required.

Children form sound relationships with each other and the childminder. They learn to share and take turns. The childminder is consistent in her approach with regards to behaviour management and she supports children as they begin to learn about boundaries and respecting each other. Positive praise and encouragement supports children's confidence and raises their self-esteem.

Discussions at hand-over times and written daily diaries provide opportunities for parents to learn about their children's achievements and experiences with the childminder. Parents are informed verbally by the childminder about her complaints procedure to ensure any issues that affect the care of children are resolved satisfactorily.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's sound knowledge and understanding of child development. They are supported to join in activities and feel at home. The organisation of space enables children to play and move around freely both indoors and outside. The childminder supports children to become confident in her care.

The childminder ensures ratios are met at all times and understands the importance of police checks to protect children from harm. Documentation relating to the care of children is in place and updated regularly to reflect each child's changing needs. All records are stored securely and confidentiality is maintained. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has improved outcomes for children. She has obtained relevant literature regarding child protection enabling her to follow correct guidelines and ensure children's welfare remains paramount. She has also asked parents to give their permission enabling her to seek emergency medical advice or treatment so children can be cared for appropriately.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 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):

- ensure the front door is secure to prevent children leaving unescorted
- obtain written permission form parents to take children out and about.

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