

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY342219
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Lynn Amelia Hartigan

<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 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 partner and three children aged 14, 12, and 10 years in a residential area of Hadleigh. The whole ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time and is currently caring for seven children who attend part-time. During the inspection there were three children aged under three years present. The family have a dog, rabbit, guinea pigs and hamster as pets.

The childminder attends a parent and carer toddler group and is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Young children are beginning to learn and take responsibility for their own personal hygiene and understand about germs and how they can affect their bodies. The childminder encourages the children to wash their hands following use of the bathroom. On request children run to the downstairs bathroom and excitedly wash their hands in preparation for snack or lunch. They have their own coloured peg for their individual towels which helps prevent cross-infection. They also have colour coordinated boxes for their personal items such as nappies or change of clothes. A good nappy changing procedure ensures that children's needs are met and again are protected from cross infection.

Children would be managed well in the event of an accident or emergency as the childminder has completed appropriate first aid training and has a well-stocked first aid kit that is easily accessible. An informative accident and emergency policy and procedure is in place and would be followed should an incident occur. However not every child has the appropriate written parental consents in place with regard to medication and seeking emergency treatment and therefore their individual needs could be compromised.

The childminder has several pets and the children learn how to respect the animals by careful supervision and guidance from the childminder. They are kept safe from the pets as the childminder ensures she follows her strict health and safety procedures.

Parents are offered information and guidance on communicable diseases and illnesses and are provided with a copy of the childminder's policy on sickness and illness. The childminder ensures the children are cared for in a non-smoking household. Children who require a sleep are well managed as they have their own child-sized mattress, sheets and blankets and are made comfortable in the well-ventilated lounge.

The childminder ensures that she is fully briefed regarding the children's individual dietary needs, these are documented within their personal files and children are provided with meals according to their needs. Completion of food hygiene training ensures snacks and meals are prepared within a clean and hygienic environment. A weekly menu and policy regarding nutrition is available to parents and this is displayed within the kitchen. Meals include nutritious and healthy choices, for example, children enjoy freshly made tuna pasta bake and vegetables for lunch.

Children enjoy raisins and a savoury biscuit at snack time. They sit together at a small table and have drinks from appropriate child-sized cups. They are able to pour their own water as this is provided in small child-sized jugs, therefore encouraging independence.

Children enjoy fresh air and exercise daily as the childminder ensures they have a walk to the local shops or play in the garden.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident and settled within their environment as they are welcomed into a clean and child-friendly home. Toys are set out ready for their arrival within the large lounge where

they mainly play. They are able to use child-sized wooden chairs and table for meals and creative activities. They are able to use the toilet independently as this is accessed downstairs.

Children are able to access some good resources as these are easily accessible within the lounge, organised in baskets and clear toy boxes, stored on low-level shelving. The childminder encourages the children to take responsibility and respect their toys and are encouraged to help pack away after their play. Children's individual needs are met as the childminder ensures that resources and equipment in place is appropriate and well maintained.

The childminder regularly risk-assesses her home to ensure the children are able to play in a safe environment. However low-level glazing in the lounge does not appear to meet safety standards and therefore the children's safety is compromised. Fire safety is discussed and smoke detectors are in place. Children are kept safe when travelling in the car as the childminder ensures appropriate car seats are fitted well. Children learn about road safety as this is discussed when out walking.

The childminder ensures that children's well-being is safeguarded. All adults within the household have been vetted and the childminder has a good policy in place if children are to be collected by someone other than their parents. Child protection, uncollected child and lost child policies in place ensure parents are informed of procedures that would be followed. The childminder is up to date with current practice with regard to child protection as she has completed the child protection foundation training, as a result children's welfare is protected.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has completed the Montessori Theory and Methodology training and is therefore qualified to teach the Montessori method. She applies this to her work as a childminder and the children are encouraged to take responsibility, make choices and become independent individuals. The toys and resources and the way they are organised reflect the Montessori approach, for example, children are able to self-select baskets of toys and take them to the table to play. There are many opportunities for the children to role play, use their imagination and be creative. For example, children decide to play hairdressers, the childminder discreetly facilitates their play by providing hair brushes and chairs. They play happily styling each other's hair. This game is then swiftly turned into a shoe shop and children select shoes from the hall and help each other try them on.

The children experience a range of opportunities including creative activities. They enjoy basic cooking activities, sticking and dough. They happily play for some time with the dough and are able to share the utensils and patiently wait for cutters that are in use. The childminder operates a flexible day taking into account the children's individual routines.

The children are able to experience opportunities outside of the home and socialise with other children as the childminder ensures she visits several places such as, a local toddler group, park, and library. The childminder is experienced in caring for children under three and provides interesting treasure boxes and story baskets for the younger child.

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

The provision is good.

Children are able to initiate their own play and use toys and resources regardless of gender. Some good resources that reflect diversity are in place in particular books and dolls. These help educate and support the children in their learning regarding diversity. An equal opportunities policy, in place for parents, details the childminders practice.

The childminder puts emphasis on good communication with parents to ensure she is fully informed regarding children in her care and their individual background, cultures and beliefs. Children who require additional help are supported well as the childminder is pro-active to ensure she is equipped with all the information necessary to support children, and the home is arranged to ensure inclusion.

Children appear very much part of the family and are confident, secure and comfortable within the home. They have formed good relationships with their friends as they all play very well together, negotiating what they do. They also approach the childminder for cuddles and reassurance. The childminder praises the children, for example, when they take turns and share the toys. As a result their behaviour is good.

Children received good care and attention and the childminder is able to meet their individual needs as she ensures she communicates well with parents and that they are fully aware of her practice. This is achieved successfully as a file of useful information and qualifications for parents is in place of which parents are offered copies. Parents are welcomed into the home and are given verbal feedback regarding their child's day. In addition all children have a daily record book that details their sleep times, what they have or have not eaten and the activities they have enjoyed. Children settle well as the childminder follows her well-written admissions and settling in policies.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a childminder who is up to date with current childcare practices. The childminder has completed the registration course for home based carers and a first aid training course. She is forward thinking and committed to training and has secured places to attend further courses such as 'Birth to three matters', and working in partnership with parents. Children are cared for in a safe environment as the childminder ensures all household members are vetted.

The childminder works within her ratios and is realistic as to how many children she cares for at one time to ensure she can offer a good standard of care for all the children. Attendance records are well maintained and the children's arrival and departure times are recorded.

The children's personal details are maintained and confidential as the childminder ensures they are stored securely and confidentially. The childminder has a detailed confidentiality policy in place that is followed.

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 complaint 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 parental written consents regarding administering medication and seeking emergency medical advice and treatment are in place
- ensure low-level glazing is made safe or inaccessible to children.

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