

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY153159
<b>Inspection date</b>	03 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Greg Wolff
<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 2002. She lives with her husband and child aged 12 years in Loughton, Essex. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

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

The family have a pet dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcome in this warm and clean home environment where they are able to learn the importance of good personal hygiene from an early age through well organised routines and practices. They learn that they should wash their hands after using the toilet, after playing in the garden and before eating to prevent germs accumulating.

Children's good health is suitably promoted and they are protected from infection as the childminder is well informed about children's health matters. She is aware of appropriate exclusion times for children when they have a contagious illness and agrees all measures with parents prior to minding. The childminder is confident in her ability to deal with minor accidents or medical emergencies. However, she does not have a suitable first aid box at present so children's health is potentially at risk in case of accident.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their good health. They take part in regular outdoor exercise, for example, they take walks in the local park and woods. Children enjoy playing in the garden and there are a number of new resources ordered to enhance this experience.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. The childminder provides a weekly menu of fresh, home-cooked food, for example, pasta and vegetables. Children are never thirsty as there are always drinks freely available to them and they use their own cups.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well-organised home where most potential risks to children are identified and minimised. This means that children are able to move around the premises safely and independently. However, a fire blanket is required in the kitchen and plug sockets must be made inaccessible to children. Emergency evacuation procedures are discussed with children and practised.

Children can access a range of good quality toys and equipment so that they enjoy a variety of different play experiences safely. A selection of toys is set out for children each day, from the wide range stored adjacent to the main play space. Resources are chosen by the childminder with care to ensure they are appropriate for the ages and stages of the children being cared for. They are frequently checked to ensure that there are no broken parts that could harm a child.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to keep children safe. Children are safeguarded because the childminder clearly understands her role in child protection but she does not currently have the contact number for the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem due to the secure and caring relationships the childminder has built with them. She talks to the children whilst they play and they respond

positively with lots of conversation. Children feel good about themselves as they receive praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements. They show an interest in what they are doing as the activities provided by the childminder are varied and stimulating. For example, children enjoy playing with dolls and taking part in arts and craft activities.

Younger children are yet to benefit from the childminder's understanding of their specific needs. They enjoy many activities and experiences to support their play and learning, but this is not supported by a knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

The childminder does not take children to any local groups so that they can interact with others from outside of the setting.

Children are happy and settled in the care of this childminder who has a warm and caring approach. Routines have been established which are consistent with home life. Children relate well to one another and become friends in the childminder's home. Children are well supported by the childminder who encourages them to extend and develop their experiences by listening to them and talking with them.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

All children benefit because they are cared for in accordance with their parents' wishes. This is achieved through the positive and professional partnerships that the childminder has established with their parents. Children's individual needs are met as there is an effective verbal communication system in place.

Children develop positive and respectful attitudes towards others through the good example set for them by the childminder. She promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice in response to information received by the children at school and is yet to provide resources which promote equality of opportunity.

Though no children attending have learning difficulties and/or disabilities, the childminder is aware of the issues involved in welcoming such children into her home, for example, access and stairs, and the implications for care of other minded children.

Children, from a young age, learn to share and take turns. The childminder is a good role model and uses positive strategies for managing behaviour. This supports children in the understanding of the boundaries that are set and to behave well.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are eager to attend and enjoy their time in this setting. They feel at home and at ease with the childminder which means their confidence grows as they initiate their play and learning. Space, play resources and activities are organised effectively to meet children's individual needs. Planned activities provide stimulating and challenging experiences for children of all ages within a fun and supportive environment.

The daily record of attendance clearly shows that ratios are always met, which enables the childminder to give appropriate support and supervision at all times. However, the childminder must ensure that she completes it at appropriate times every day.

Most records which are required for the safe and effective management of the setting are maintained, well-organised and stored confidentially, thus ensuring that children's welfare is safeguarded at all times. However, a number of required signatures of parental consent have yet to be obtained which means that children's welfare is potentially at risk.

Overall children's needs are met.

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

At her last inspection, the childminder agreed to ensure that all persons over the age of 16 years living on the premises have completed a Criminal records Bureau check. All persons have now completed these checks, thus ensuring that children are safe whilst at the childminder's home.

### **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):

- obtain a first aid kit, the contents of which are checked and replaced as required
- reduce potential hazards in the home relating to access to plug sockets and the provision of a fire blanket in the kitchen
- obtain the contact details for the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- enhance opportunities for young children by use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- ensure that children have opportunities to socialise with others outside of the premises
- obtain a range of resources which promote equality of opportunity and celebrate diversity
- obtain all required signatures of parental consent
- ensure that the daily register is completed at times of arrival and departure of minded 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)