

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY244742
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Marie Cozzi
<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 2002. She lives with her husband and four children aged one, five, 10 and 12 years in Church Langley, Harlow, Essex. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding with the exception of two bedrooms. 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 and is also registered for overnight care for a maximum of three children at any one time. She is currently minding one child over five years on a part-time basis. The childminder takes and collects children to and from school. The childminder is happy to attend the local parent and toddler group.

The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network. She does not currently have any children on roll who are in receipt of funding for early education for three and four-year-olds.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright, clean and welcoming environment. There are positive systems in place which contribute towards ensuring good hygiene is practised. Children are protected from infection or harmful bacteria, for example, by regular cleaning of the home and ensuring that they wash their hands before food and after using the toilet.

Children are discovering the importance of healthy eating as they help themselves to the good range of food provided. They enjoy a balanced diet including fresh produce such as tomatoes, cooked meat, cucumber, cheese and potatoes. The health and well-being of children is also safeguarded by the systems that the childminder has in place, such as accident and pre-existing injury records.

There are daily opportunities for children to receive fresh air and exercise during collection time from school. Children also have access to a range of outdoor play opportunities in the rear garden. Provision for younger children includes attendance at a local gym group. There is a good range of indoor play opportunities for children to develop other physical skills such as craft activities.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a warm, welcoming child-friendly home where children feel safe and secure. Toys and resources are in the main stored in clear plastic boxes for ease of identification in the dedicated playroom. Children have access to the rear garden and the whole house with the exception of two bedrooms. They are on the whole able to move around safely and make choices from a selection of toys and resources.

A number of safety measures are in place for example, smoke detectors are fitted and an emergency evacuation procedure is discussed and practised with children. However, the systems in place to identify hazards are not yet robust. Consequently, children are exposed to risks, such as, access to out of bounds areas, security of the rear garden and inappropriate storage in the office area of the home. This results in their safety being compromised.

The childminder reinforces safe practices, for example, sitting down when eating food and tidying up after an activity. This helps children to take responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe in the home.

Children are protected as the childminder has an adequate understanding of child protection issues and is fully aware of the necessary procedures to follow should she have any concerns.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, confident and settle well into this setting. They have a clear sense of belonging as the childminder fosters very good relationships with each child and encourages them to build relationships with each other. Children play happily and co-operatively with each

other, learning to take turns and share. For example, at meal times and when playing in the garden.

The familiar routines in place promote a feeling of security and confidence. Children benefit from a wide range of toys and equipment which they enjoy. They are encouraged to make decisions about their play and therefore initiate their own learning. Children have opportunities to experience a variety of creative play activities and materials which promotes self-esteem and self-confidence.

The immediate and individual needs of children are met effectively because the childminder has a good understanding of each child. Their interests are planned for and are reflected in the play and learning opportunities on offer.

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

The provision is good.

Children share their experiences and the childminder listens and values their contributions. This in turn helps children to feel a sense of belonging and self worth. They are able to make choices such as selecting activities for themselves. Children have chances to learn about differences and similarities from positive images of diversity and through a childminder who acts as a positive role model. This helps them to value and respect each others' similarities and differences.

Children demonstrate good behaviour and respond well to the childminder. They receive warm care and attention and the use of positive language helps them to begin to learn how to manage their own behaviour. Children are helped to understand their actions through developmentally appropriate explanations, which in turn promotes positive attitudes.

Children are supported well by the partnership between the childminder and their parents and carers. There is a regular verbal exchange of information about issues relating to children's well-being. However there is a weakness in the regular updating of children's individual records.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The space is bright, colourful and welcoming and is organised to meet the needs of children. They are very familiar with the routines in place which help them settle quickly and feel secure. The management of care is on the whole promoting an awareness of how to keep children safe and healthy and enable them to make choices.

All required documentation is in place and on the whole is effective in practice to provide for children's welfare, care and learning. The childminder has undertaken training since her last inspection this ensures that she is up-to-date with current childcare practice.

Children receive lots of support from the childminder who knows them well and enjoys their company. The home is organised to meet the needs of children and there is plenty of space for children to enjoy their play.

Overall children's needs are met.

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

Since the last inspection the childminder has improved outcomes for children. She has implemented a clear complaints procedure which has been shared with parents to ensure that any concerns relating to children can be dealt with quickly and 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 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):

- further develop systems in order to promote safety and security inside and outside of the premises and ensure proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents
- further develop systems for recording individual information about children to ensure that they are regularly updated.

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)