

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 590144 |
| Inspection date | 26 July 2007 |
| Inspector | Justine Leong |
| 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 2001. She lives with her partner and son aged 16 years in Feering, Essex. The whole of the ground floor of the premises is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy as the childminder encourages them to follow simple hygiene routines during the day. They are able to independently access handwashing facilities and remember to do this before eating and after playing in the garden. Children are kept safe from infection as

the childminder shares her sickness policy with parents, advising that children with infectious diseases or sickness are excluded to minimise the risk of cross-infection. The childminder has attended recent first aid training and a well stocked first aid box is available, helping to ensure that children's medical emergencies are dealt with appropriately.

Children are given ample opportunities for physical activity outside as they are able to access the safe garden on a daily basis. There are a range of toys available, helping to promote development of physical skills including a slide, climbing frame and bats and balls. Children also benefit from frequent trips to nearby parks and other places of interest, giving further opportunities to enjoy physical activity and fresh air.

Children bring their own lunches to the setting and these are stored hygienically in the fridge. Drinks are available on request to ensure they do not become thirsty. The childminder offers the children snacks if they are hungry between meals, but these are generally foods such as biscuits and do not promote healthy eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm and welcoming environment, where they are able to move around safely under the childminder's close supervision. Children's safety is enhanced as the childminder has taken positive steps such as fitting socket covers and using stairgates, to minimise the risk of accidental injury. Fire safety precautions are in place including fire alarms and a fire blanket in the kitchen. The childminder has devised and practised an effective emergency evacuation procedure with the children to ensure they know what to do in the event of an emergency.

Children have independent access to a wide range of safe and stimulating resources, suitably stored to allow them to self-select. The childminder checks resources for damage on a regular basis and all toys are cleaned weekly to minimise the risk of cross infection. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and knows the correct procedure to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have a good balance of activities that provide opportunities for development of social, emotional, intellectual and physical capabilities. They enjoy free play much of the time in the home, making their own choices from a wide range of stimulating resources. For example, children paint with a variety of brushes and rollers and then help to clear away and ask to play with playdough and cutters. They also have access to a broad range of small world toys such as a farm and a castle, providing valuable opportunities for imaginative play and language development. Children are developing good dexterity as they have many opportunities to draw, thread beads and use scissors. They have access to a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books and enjoy sharing story time with the childminder.

Flexible daily routines mean that children are able to select the activity that appeals to them at the time, helping to build on their natural curiosity as learners and increasing motivation and interest. Children are actively encouraged to tidy away activities before starting something new, for instance, after painting the childminder and children work together to tidy the table and wash the brushes. This encourages them to take an active role in the setting and helps

develop responsible attitudes. Children are developing in confidence and self-esteem through their close relationships with the childminder who is very intuitive of their needs. The childminder often joins in with play, extending and consolidating understanding through the effective use of questioning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing a good sense of belonging as the childminder listens attentively and ensures that all children feel valued and included. Children have built good relationships with the childminder who responds sensitively to them and respects their individual personalities. All children have equal access to toys and equipment that meet their individual needs so they can become confident and independent. The childminder has several resources reflecting diversity and discusses people's similarities and differences with children, to help them develop an understanding of others.

The childminder is calm and consistent and uses positive behaviour management strategies with the children in her care. She uses praise and encouragement when appropriate and explanations to ensure children understand what is expected of them. Children's well-being is promoted as the childminder and parents have developed a good working relationship. They share important information about the children's needs, likes and dislikes and effective ongoing verbal communication ensures that the childminder is kept up to date with any changes in the children's lives. All required documentation and consents are in place to ensure children are cared for in line with parents' wishes. The childminder understands her duty to make parents aware of how they can make a complaint and she knows to log complaints, should she ever receive any.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has organised her home to provide a warm and child-friendly environment in which children feel welcome. They benefit from regular routines which helps them feel confident and secure. Space and resources are well-organised to provide children with a good balance of stimulating activities. The childminder follows sound procedures to promote children's good health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution.

The childminder has attended all the required training to support her registration and understands her duty to comply with the conditions of her registration. Accurate checks are in place to ensure children are cared for by a suitably vetted person and children are never left alone with any person not vetted. Documentation and parental permissions are available although comprehensive policies and procedures are not in place to support the care and welfare of the children. Children's details are stored safely and confidentially. Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that the provider ensure that all low-level glass within the property was made safe or inaccessible to children. It was also recommended that written permissions be obtained from parents for transporting children in a vehicle, administering medication and seeking emergency medical treatment or advice.

These areas have now been addressed and the childminder ensures that low-level glass is no longer accessible by children. Written permission slips are also in place to allow children to be transported in a vehicle, be given emergency medical treatment and to be administered medication when required, helping to ensure children are kept safe in the event of an emergency.

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):

- provide a range of nutritious snacks to promote healthy eating
- ensure written policies are in place that promote the welfare, care and learning of children, and that these are shared with parents.

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