

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** EY225721  
**Inspection date** 12 October 2007  
**Inspector** Amanda Jane Gray

**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](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 two children aged nine and 13 in Basildon, Essex. The ground floor and first floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children aged 17 months, 20 months and three years on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local pre-schools and schools to take and collect children. The family has a dog and a budgie.

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 are welcome in this warm and clean home environment and learn the importance of good personal hygiene through reinforced daily routines. They know, for example, that by

washing their hands after using the toilet they will be both clean and healthy. Children's good health is suitably promoted and they are protected from infection as the childminder is well informed about children's health matters and has implemented an extremely comprehensive sick child policy, which is shared with parents. 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.

Children benefit from a healthy diet which is monitored by the childminder. They benefit hugely from the written policy and procedure the childminder has implemented which addresses creating the right atmosphere for eating and encouraging social skills. Children are not hurried to eat as they eat in their own time. The implementation of a comprehensive policy regarding food refusal further enhances their care. Drinks are made available throughout the afternoon and children are encouraged to help themselves when possible, increasing their independence. The childminder ensures that she is aware of allergies and other special dietary requirements so that children's individual needs are met.

There are lots of opportunities for children to play and gain physical exercise in the garden; they have the opportunity to play on safe equipment, such as the trampoline, which they are able to access in all weathers. Additionally, children also benefit from regular trips to the park and the local pre-school.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder makes the environment welcoming by keeping it clean and tidy; and having toys ready for children; it is warm with lots of natural light. Risks to children are minimised by the childminder's effective organisation. She prepares the play space and child accessible areas of the house before they arrive to ensure it is safe and secure. The childminder regularly checks toys and safety equipment before going out and about.

Children use a wide range of safe and developmentally suitable resources which are well organised and easily accessible to encourage independence. The provision of child accessible storage encourages them to tidy away after playing leaving the play areas safe. Children's safety is further promoted as the childminder displays the fire drill procedure and ensures that this is practised by the children in attendance on a regular basis. Carbon monoxide detectors and a rope ladder for emergency evacuation adds to this safe environment.

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of child protection issues to ensure children's welfare remains paramount. She discusses her responsibility with parents prior to placement. She is careful to check the identification of visitors and never allows children to leave with adults she has not met and agreed with parents that it is safe to do so.

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

The provision is good.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem due to the secure and caring relationships the childminder has built with them. Children feel good about themselves as they receive praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements. She listens to and values what children say, talks with them about what they are doing and has high expectations of what they can achieve, which helps children reach their full potential.

The children benefit enormously as the childminder knows their abilities well and is strongly aware of how to further each child's development, encouraging them to move onto the next steps. Children are encouraged to be independent, make choices and select what they want to play with from the stimulating range of resources available.

Their individual needs are incorporated into daily routines so there is time for rest, refreshment and active play. Children flourish and make excellent progress due to the childminder's skilled approach to child care. Her knowledge of how children learn through well planned play and a wide variety of experiences supports this. All children enjoy purposeful and exciting outings, such as the local parks and other places of local interest.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has good knowledge in how to promote equality of opportunity for children and enhances this through her positive attitude. Children gain an awareness of people from other cultures and with differing needs through the resources which the childminder provides. They celebrate festivals of all religions at the appropriate times in the year and take part in activities which help them learn about different faiths. They are also able to communicate their own needs and beliefs in a supportive environment. Children are developing good self esteem and sense of belonging since the childminder is kind and supportive and she offers cuddles, emotional support and supports their play. Resulting in a nurturing and warm environment for children in which they can play and learn.

Children's behaviour is good and they co-operate well with one another supported by the childminder. She uses effective techniques to ensure that unwanted behaviour is kept to a minimum and acts as a good role model; speaking calmly, she helps children share and take turns. Children are developing independence within their daily routines and they make choices about what they play with.

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. Daily diaries are also available on request. Parents comments are both positive and complimentary about their children's care. Children are supported to make smooth transitions between their homes and childminder, this increases their confidence and self esteem. Settling in periods are used which ultimately benefit children's overall confidence.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The setting is homely and well organised to support children in their play and appropriate storage ensures that children of all ages become independent. 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.

Records which are required for the safe and effective management of the setting are well maintained, effectively organised and stored confidentially, thus ensuring that children's welfare is safeguarded at all times. All policies and procedures are in writing providing parents with

detailed information. However, the complaints procedure does not reflect current changes to the legislation.

Children are happy, making good progress, gaining in confidence and independence as they make choices and decisions about their care. Children benefit from the childminder's good understanding of the regulatory requirements for childminding.

Overall children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to extend the range of activities and resources that promoted equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice to include disabilities. The childminder has obtained various pieces of equipment that reflect disability including books and play people. She is also hoping to obtain more in the future. This is effectively giving children a positive understanding of people's needs and building a wide knowledge of the world around them.

### **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 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):

- revise the written policy and procedure regarding complaints to include the requirements as set out in the Addendum to the National Standards (October 2005)

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)