

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY241144
Inspection date	14 September 2007
Inspector	Suzanne Joyce Stedman
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 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 three daughters aged seven, nine and 11 in Leigh-on-Sea, 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 five children at any one time and is currently minding three children, siblings aged two and five and a six month old baby. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has two cats and keep fish.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean and hygienic home environment where they are protected from infection because the childminder follows good hygiene routines. Children learn about their own personal hygiene as they discuss health and hygiene issues with the childminder. For example, children know that they need to wash their hands after using the toilet or playing with the cats and before eating or cooking.

Children are protected from cross-infection because the childminder has the appropriate procedures and documentation in place. The childminder's first aid training has expired. This means that children's welfare in the event of an accident is not fully safeguarded.

The childminder provides some of the children's food, generally a fruit snack mid morning and afternoon, and the parents provide packed lunches. Drinking water is available at all times.

Children learn that exercise is fun, good for them and helps them keep fit when they regularly walk to and from school and pre school, go to the woods, local parks and participate in yoga in the home. This promotes a healthy attitude to exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle and encourages them to adopt this lifestyle for their future good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

All children are made to feel very welcome in the childminder's comfortable home. For example their art work is displayed in the dining room. This promotes the children's sense of self-worth and they see that their art is appreciated. Children have good opportunities to engage in a wide range of activities. For example, they have free access to inside and outside play using the whole house and garden.

Children's safety is promoted because the childminder ensures her home stays safe for the children. Children are therefore able to develop their natural curiosity and explore the home freely and in safety. Children are also protected when out of the home because the childminder carefully considers potential hazards. For example, children learn about road safety when out on walks and made good use of a road safety pack which was obtained from the children's pre school.

Children are protected because the childminder has a good understanding of her role in safeguarding children. She covered child protection in her childminding training and is clear in her responsibilities. The childminder maintains regular communication with parents which develops a strong partnership between all involved in keeping children safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and purposefully occupied while at the childminder's home. The childminder has a good understanding of how children learn through play. For example, children learn about numbers as they count the candles and candle holders to go on the birthday cake. They are

confident when explaining the colour of the caterpillar birthday cake and counting five big jumps on the trampoline for a fifth birthday the following day.

Children enjoy all activities provided such as playing with the play dough rolling, squeezing, shaping and cutting it. They participate in imaginative play, playing space ships on the climbing frame. They are motivated because they enjoy what they do and have a range of resources readily available to them to develop their own games and ideas.

The childminder listens to and values what the children say and do. Children are given lots of praise and encouragement which also promotes their self-esteem and promotes a positive attitude to learning and develops their confidence. She provides children with a positive role model because she talks with parents and other children who encourage children to communicate well with one another and the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children make themselves at home and have been cared for by the childminder since they were babies. They feel included in the daily routines of family life and enjoy their time with the childminder and her family. The childminder takes time to get to know the children in her care so that she can meet their individual needs well. She achieves this by ongoing discussion with parents and spending most of her time actively involved with the children.

Children respond well to the childminder's consistent boundaries and behaviour management. The children's good behaviour is rewarded with lots of praise and encouragement. This helps the children to feel good about themselves and develops confidence. The children generally play well together, however there is some sibling rivalry which is appropriately dealt with. Children are eager to help look after the childminder's cats. This promotes children's awareness of being kind and considerate to others.

All children are treated with equal concern and respect. Children learn about the local community and the wider world through regular visits to the library for resources showing our differences and similarities.

There is an excellent range of children's art work for parents to see and the childminder makes time daily to speak to parents and the pre school to ensure children's individual needs are well met. This exchange of information enables the childminder to care for the children with consistency and with regard to parents' wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are protected from non-vetted persons because the childminder ensures that all persons in the household are vetted and that non-vetted persons do not have unsupervised access to children. Children's needs are met well because the childminder ensures that the required adults to child ratios are met. She has completed the required local authority approved childminder's course, however has not maintained first aid training.

Children's needs are met well because the childminder organises space and resources to promote the children's welfare and learning. They have free access to the whole house and garden.

The childminder maintains all of the required records for the efficient and safe management of the childminding service. The childminder ensures that all documentation about individual children is shared with their parents.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to develop knowledge and understanding in relation to the needs of older children, including the provision of toys and materials that promote equality of opportunity. The local library is used to obtain information and reading material showing our differences and similarities for children of all ages. Therefore children have a better understanding of the world around them.

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):

- complete an appropriate first aid course, which includes training in first aid for infants and young 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