

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY347227
Inspection date	17 July 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 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 2007. She lives with her husband and four children aged two, four, six and eight 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 three children at any one time and is currently minding one child. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has no pets.

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 good.

Children play in a very clean and hygienic home environment where they are well protected from infection because the childminder follows good hygiene routines. Children learn effectively

about their own personal hygiene as they wash their hands before eating and after toileting and see the childminders good example. Children know that washing their hands stops germs spreading.

Children are protected from cross-infection because the childminder has the appropriate procedures and documentation in place. For example, an exclusion period is included in parental contracts to ensure that when children are sick they are kept at home so other children do not become infected. All signed permission for medication and transport are in place however she has not as yet obtained signed permission for seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder provides the meals and snacks for the children such as, ham sandwiches with cucumber and fruit for afters and a treat of ice cream if they eat their lunch nicely. Children are aware that 'treats' are appropriate in moderation.

Children learn that exercise is fun, good for them and helps them keep fit when they regularly go on outings to the beach, park, woods and toddler groups. They enjoy collecting mussels on the beach to bring home to cook and eat. 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. This promotes the children's sense of security and helps them separate from their parents happily because they feel secure in the welcoming environment and the childminder's care. Children have opportunities to engage in a wide range of activities because there is good space available to them for different sorts of play.

Children's safety is promoted very well because the childminder is meticulous in ensuring her home stays safe for the children. For example, she records that she regularly tests the smoke alarms to ensure they are in working order and has devised an emergency escape plan which the children practice with her. 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 either go in the buggy or hold onto it.

Children are protected because the childminder has a good understanding of her role in safeguarding all children. She covered child protection training when completing the childminding training course and is clear in her responsibilities. The childminder maintains regular, informal communication with parents which develop strong partnerships between all those 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 tools as they play "Bob the Builder" and their early sciences as they play with the sand on the beach.

Children enjoy both their spontaneous play and those activities planned by the childminder such as, lions made out of paper plates cutting and sticking on the main, wobbly eyes and drawing nose and whiskers. Children 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 a positive attitude to learning and develops their confidence.

The childminder provides children with a positive role model because she talks with parents and other children which encourages children to communicate well with one another. They enjoy playing with the play food being mummies and daddies. Children's literacy skills are promoted because they have frequent opportunities for mark marking in their scrape books.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children make themselves at home and are treated as part of the family. They feel included in the daily routines of family life and enjoy their time with the childminder. The childminder takes time to get to know the children in her care so that she can meet their needs. 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 they enjoy choosing treats for good behaviour. This helps the children to feel good about themselves and develops confidence. The children play well together and learn to share and take turns. 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 everyday activities and experiences such as, feeding the ducks at the park and visiting the horses at the stables. They have access to some resources that reflect the wider society to help them learn about our differences and similarities. For example, the childminder has a festive calendar which includes Chinese, Indian, Jewish and Christian festivals.

There is some written information available for parents. Displays of children's work and their scrap books are available for parents to see. The childminder has developed very good relationships with parents and they share information on a regular basis. This exchange of information enables the childminder to care for the children with consistency and with regard to parent's wishes and the needs of the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children benefit from the childminder's experience and skills developed from being a mother of four and completing appropriate training. All children are appreciated and are cared for in a safe, well organised and welcoming home environment.

The children are protected because the childminder has undergone the appropriate checks to ensure that she is suitable to look after children. The childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibilities with regard to the requirements and conditions of her registration. She has attended additional training to continue to develop her knowledge of childcare.

Most of the required documentation to promote the children's well-being and safety is in place and well maintained however, she needs to obtain written parental permission to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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):

- obtain written parental permission to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

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