

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY346376
Inspection date	03 September 2007
Inspector	Samantha Smith
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 has been registered in 2007. She lives with her two children aged eight and four years, in Loughton in 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 four children at any one time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. 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 play in a clean home, where they are encouraged to follow basic hygiene routines such as washing their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Younger children are developing their independence in this as they use the steps provided in the bathroom. Topics such as 'keeping clean' supports children understanding of why such cleaning routines are important.

Sickness procedures are in place and shared with the parents, contributing towards protecting children from the spread of infection. In the event of a child having an accident or becoming

unwell, appropriate care is given as the childminder has a current first aid certificate and a first aid box is located in the home.

Children benefit from the healthy and nutritious meals prepared by the childminder which consist of various foods such as pasta, minced lamb and mashed potatoes, fresh fruit and yoghurt. Salad is served with every meal and drinks are made freely available. Weekly menus are shared with parents, and children's dietary requirements and food preferences are taken into consideration.

Children take part in regular physical activity as they freely access the well resourced garden. They also go on regular trips to the park and the childminder takes them to extra curricular activities after school.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a warm and welcoming home, they benefit from a designated playroom that has a good range of equipment available for them to play with. Toys and resources are in good condition, age-appropriate and suitable for their purpose.

Positive steps have been taken by the childminder to ensure children's safety whilst in her home. For example, the front door and back gate are kept secure, there are no exposed electrical sockets and all dangerous substances are stored high out of children's reach. Fire safety precautions are in place through the use of smoke alarms on each level of the home, a fire blanket in the kitchen and there are emergency evacuation procedures in place. Children are learning to take some responsibility for themselves as they take part in safety activities including emergency evacuation practises and 'stranger danger'.

When children are taken in a vehicle, appropriate car seats are used. However, the childminder does not have written permission from the parents to transport children in a vehicle and the appropriate insurance cover is not in place.

Children are protected from issues relating to child protection as the childminder has a clear understanding of her role in this and she is aware of the government guidelines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well settled in the childminder's home. They enjoy free access to the whole of the ground floor and garden and move around freely and safely. They have established close and caring relationships with the childminder and her children. They are confident communicators as they engage in regular conversation with the childminder and each other. They spend time talking about what they are doing and they freely express their wants and needs, to which the childminder responds well. She spends much of her time interacting with them and joining in their play as she pretends to order food in their made up restaurant.

There is a sufficient range of resources available in the playroom and garden that mostly cover all areas of learning. Some of these include, home corner, play cars, construction materials, games, sand and water play and various role play equipment. Children experience various art and craft activities, including drawing, painting and cooking.

The childminder has a sound understanding of child development and has completed training in the 'Birth to three matters' framework. As a result, activities provided are suitably planned to meet children's needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Equal opportunities are well supported in the setting. All children are welcome in the childminder's home and there are a range of resources that reflect positive images available, consequently children are gaining a full appreciation of the wider society.

The childminder is currently not caring for any children with disabilities although she demonstrates a positive attitude to meeting children's individual needs and working in partnership with parents and other professionals. Children are very well behaved, playing co-operatively together. They are developing a good understanding of right from wrong because the childminder has set clear boundaries and offers appropriate explanations to them.

Children benefit from the positive partnerships the childminder has established with parents. There is a good two way flow of information, ensuring parents are kept updated of their child's progress. However, not all written agreements have been obtained from all parents, including, permission to transport children in a vehicle and to seek emergency medical treatment. The childminder is aware of the regulation in regards to complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has completed all required checks for registration including a criminal record check. The home is well-organised to support children's care and learning needs. The childminder has a sound knowledge of child development and she has completed the required courses for registration. As well as additional training in food and hygiene, special educational needs, child protection and a diploma in childcare and education.

Written policies are in place and shared with the parents. Most of the required documentation is in place with the exception of some written agreements and appropriate vehicle insurance, which potentially compromises children's well-being. 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 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):

- ensure appropriate vehicle insurance is obtained
- ensure written consents are obtained for all 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