

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118835
Inspection date	19 September 2007
Inspector	S Campbell
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 1999. She lives with her husband and two children aged 13 and 11 years in Upminster, Essex. They live within walking distance of local schools, shops, parks and Upminster Station. All areas of the property are used for childminding and 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 four children full and part-time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends local community groups. The family have one cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children respond and move enthusiastically when playing with musical instruments. Children regularly enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their health and develop their physical skills, such as visiting local parks and visiting places of interest. Children's good health is further

promoted because they receive fresh, balanced and nutritious meals, such as creamy chicken and sausage casserole. Mealtimes are a social event and there is appropriate furniture in place to ensure children are comfortably seated, for example high chairs are used. The childminder consistently works towards providing healthy eating practices by introducing new foods to children's diets, such as kiwi and nectarine. This allows children to develop healthy eating practices and contribute to a healthy lifestyle. The childminder ensures all children's care needs are well met. She follows babies' individual routines for eating and sleeping, which contributes to their physical wellbeing.

Effective routines and the childminder's own good practice prevents the spread of cross infection, for example children independently wash their hands at appropriate times. This is further supported because the childminder has good procedures in place when changing younger children. There are systems in place to record accidents and medication given to children. The childminder ensures she uses the body chart when recording accidents. The entries are countersigned by parents and they receive a copy of the entry to promote continuity of care. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate. During outings she ensures children's emergency contact numbers and a first aid box are at hand. The childminder has obtained written parental consent to seek emergency medical advice and/or treatment and in the event of an emergency parental consent has been obtained to leave children with a named childminder.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are interested in the activities on offer. The childminder carefully selects and rotates children's toys on regular basis to ensure they are age appropriate and maintain their interest. Children have access to a varied range of resources that are in a good state of repair. Children are able to independently make choices about their play to support their own learning needs.

Children benefit from playing in a clean, spacious and well-organised environment. This allows them to move around and play safely. The childminder provides a very warm, caring and family like environment allowing children to feel secure and confident in their surroundings.

Children enjoy their play in a safe and secure environment. Regular risk assessments both indoors and outdoors, ensure children's safety. The childminder is committed to providing a safe setting for children, for example fire drills are regularly carried out there are good safety measures in place. The childminder frequently talks to children about keeping themselves safe and has obtained a varied range of books to extend children's understanding, such as 'Feeling Safe'; 'Getting Lost' and 'Saying No'.

The childminder has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows what action to take if she has any concerns about a child in her care. In addition the childminder ensures incidents that occur elsewhere are recorded and has implemented a child protection policy. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder gives good support to children to enhance their development and learning. They have developed strong and positive relationships with the childminder. Children benefit from a good selection of role play activities. They enjoy making a playhouse out of a sheet in

the living room and are able to act out real life situations as they use a range of DIY tools to mend the house, such as a circular saw, drill and spirit level.

The childminder spends time playing with children throughout the day. She engages well in children's play and they take pleasure in her participating in having a pretend shower. Children are developing good imaginative and creative skills and benefit from playing with musical instruments. They merrily dance to the different sounds of electronic piano. The children frequently attend a childminding and toddler group, which allows them to interact with their peers and others.

Children's learning experiences are further promoted because they are able to grow flowers, watercress and runner beans. In addition they make fairy cakes and decorate biscuits. The childminder plans a range of craft activities. The children collect leaves with the childminder and enjoying making pictures from natural materials, such as acorns, and leaves.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards providing an inclusive setting. She has past experiences of caring for children with additional needs and ensures that she works in partnership with others to ensure their needs are met. The books on offer cover a wide range of positive reinforcement, for example 'Ben and His Puffer' and 'Why Do Some People Use Wheelchairs?' These allow children to have a positive attitude towards similarities and differences.

Children learn about the world through outings, resources and activities that introduce them to other cultures. For example, children go out on outings to the Queen Theatre for Black History Month and a diversity fair within the local community. This encourages children to develop a positive attitude towards others. Children have access to a good range of resources that promote positive images, such as disability figures and puzzles.

Children are very well behaved. They play harmoniously together and older children show kindness to younger ones, for example when playing with the builders' construction kit they help the younger children put their goggles on. Children are very polite and they spontaneously say "thank you" to their peers and others without prompting.

The childminder has developed good relationships with parents. She has devised an attractive welcome pack for parents. The welcome pack includes detailed policies, procedures and relevant information about the type of activities on offer to promote children's learning. This promotes both formal and informal information about the routines of the day and children's play. Children's progress is shared with parents both verbally and in writing on a regular basis. The childminder has recently implemented new systems to record children's progress and intends to share these fully with parents, for example 'Tracking Children's Progress through the Early Years Foundation'.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has undertaken a number of courses since her last inspection and will be commencing a NVQ Level 3 Child Care course and is very committed to attending further short courses. The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards and as a result she meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder knows children well and as a result they are making good overall progress in their development. The organisation of the day enables children to participate in both active, structured and free play activities to support their learning interests and needs.

The childminder has all regulatory documents in place to ensure she meets the needs of the children. Records are readily available for inspection, well organised and comprehensive.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to address a potential central heating pipe tripping hazard sited by the back door. This has now been addressed because the pipes are located under the floor, which maximises children's safety while at the setting.

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:

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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):

- continue to develop progress reports and share these fully 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