

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	202076
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Barbara Ann Greenley

<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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 1990. She lives with her husband and one adult child, in the town of Billericay, Essex near to local amenities. The whole premises is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder has pets, two guinea pigs and two tortoises.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding eight children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The childminder walks to local schools and playgroups to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group, library and park with the minded 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 are beginning to learn the importance of personal hygiene through daily routines. They understand the need to wash their hands after using the toilet as they must remove the dirt and germs. Children are beginning to be independent and value the benefits of self-care. Attention is paid to ensuring the prevention of children catching any illness from the family pets. Children are protected by the childminder's verbal policy with parents regarding sickness and preventing the spread of infection. The childminder has a current first aid certificate. Children are further protected by the range of information the childminder has gathered regarding their medical history, food preferences and allergies.

Children have an understanding of healthy eating as they are given information by the childminder about their nutritional needs. They are involved with buying their food and have the opportunity to cook snacks such as cakes, biscuits and the dough used for play. Drinking water is readily available and children are encouraged to drink freely. Children sit together sociably with adults for their meals, learning good table manners and how to eat their food properly. Children also have opportunities to watch the growing process of foods such as strawberries and tomatoes.

Children enjoy a variety of daily activities to enable them to take part in physical play. They participate in daily walks, garden and park play. Children are also experiencing trips to the shops in the town. The home is well resourced with toys to encourage exercise.

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

The provision is good.

Children can make choices in an environment that is organised by the childminder to allow children freedom in safe surroundings. The childminder arranges the home to be child friendly and checks the premises to minimise potential hazards.

Children access an extensive range of equipment that provides them with challenging, fun activities. The childminder ensures that toys are easily within reach of the children; this allows them to use their own initiative when organising games. Children can play safely with the resources as the childminder monitors the condition of the equipment regularly.

Children are encouraged to keep themselves safe. As the children develop a greater understanding, the childminder introduces the children to safety measures regarding road safety, running and climbing in the home and keeping themselves protected from strangers.

The childminder is aware of the information regarding child protection which ensures she acts in the best interests of the children. Written information and booklets are shared with parents. The childminder has recently attended a course on safeguarding children and is fully informed of the changes that have taken place in the child protection organisation.

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

The provision is good.

Children experience a good range of activities that are planned and spontaneous. Children are learning to interact with each other and with adults who visit the home. Their opinions and ideas are important and affirmed. Children are also learning that it is alright to express how they feel or what they want to do.

Children have pride in their work; it is appreciated by their parents and childminder. Their independence is increasing and they are able to make sense of the world as the childminder provides a variety of activities to extend their knowledge, for example, small world figures that are used with other toys to act out imaginary games. Good use is also made of the floor space to lay out the tea set, food and sorting games. Activities promote independence, for example, a free standing book case that allows children to browse and look at the stories. All of these examples are helping children to develop their self-esteem and social skills.

The children have freedom to choose their toys and become absorbed in their games. They are learning that there are boundaries as they play and that they must help and take responsibility for some tasks. Children show enthusiasm as they play and the childminder extends their language skills by asking questions and responding positively to their views. Children have access to a broad range of activities such as play dough and cooking. Children are developing their communication skills and make their needs known.

The childminder has the 'Birth to three matters' framework and has read the materials. She is using her extensive experience to ensure that the younger children participate in a full range of activities.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a clear behaviour policy agreed by the childminder and parents. Limits are set and as the children grow older they are introduced to the house rules and boundaries. Children's good behaviour is recognised and praised. They are developing increasing independence in organising their play, supported by the childminder's arrangement of the materials and equipment. Children are enabled to try new things and gain self confidence. The childminder finds that the 'time out' system works very well to manage any unwanted behaviour.

Children are able to access an increased range of toys and equipment reflecting other cultures and people with disabilities. Since the last inspection the childminder has added dolls and books to her resources following a recommendation to review the toys on offer. The childminder has an understanding of the issues and feels confident about answering the children's questions and interest.

The childminder cares for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and works in collaboration with parents. She feels confident about dealing with any concerns and has undertaken training to ensure that any medication is administered correctly.

The childminder values good communication with parents to ensure that children's needs are met. She offers them regular feedback about the children's progress, making time to speak with the parents each day. The new complaints process is not in place at present. This process

enables parents and carer to swiftly resolve any problems that may affect the care of the children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder is enthusiastic about her work and is committed to training. She is motivated and expresses her enjoyment of working with children. She now has nearly eighteen years experience and intends to continue working with children. Children are protected by the childminder's overall knowledge of her responsibilities concerning the regulations and conditions that govern the work.

The daily routine is organised to ensure that ratios are maintained and that children are able to move freely around the home. There is space for children to play both inside and outside of the home. Activities are organised to meet the needs of the children attending. The childminder concentrates her time on looking after the children and giving them individual attention therefore children benefit from the input of a carer who strives to meet their needs.

Documentation is kept confidential and secure; parents can access records regarding their own child. Written agreements and other appropriate forms contain all the relevant information required to ensure the children's welfare is protected. However, whilst the daily register is kept up-to-date, the entries are not time accurate which means that the attendance of children cannot be established precisely. Paperwork is generally in good order and readily available for inspection.

Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was required to review the range of toys on offer that reflected diversity and anti-discriminatory practice. Since the inspection the childminder has added new resources such as dolls and books. She ensures that children have free access to the range of equipment on offer.

It was also recommended that written permission was obtained from parents regarding emergency medical treatment or advice. Written permission is now on file for each child ensuring that the childminder acts in their best interests in the case of an emergency situation.

### **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 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):

- ensure parents are informed about the current complaints procedure
- ensure that the daily record of attendance is accurate.

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)