

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401518
Inspection date	23 October 2007
Inspector	Greg Wolff
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 2001. She lives with her husband and three children aged 14, 13 and 11 in South Ockendon, 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 six children at any one time. She is currently minding six children under eight part time. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school. The childminder attends a number of local groups.

The family have a dog and a cat as pets.

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's good health is suitably promoted and they are protected from infection as the childminder is well informed about children's health matters. She is aware of appropriate exclusion times for children when they have a contagious illness and agrees all measures with parents prior to minding. The childminder is confident in her ability to deal with minor accidents or medical emergencies and has a comprehensive first aid kit which is checked and restocked when appropriate.

Children are made welcome in this warm and clean home environment where they are able to learn the importance of good personal hygiene from an early age through well-organised routines and practices. They learn that they should wash their hands after using the toilet, after playing in the garden and when they come back from the park to prevent germs accumulating.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities that contribute to their good health. They take part in regular outdoor exercise, for example, they take walks and play in the local park. Children enjoy playing in the garden and there are a number of resources such as a climbing frame, slide and tunnel to enhance this play.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. The childminder provides a wide range of fresh food, for example, pasta and pies with vegetables. Children are never thirsty as there are always drinks freely available for them and they use their own cups.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well-organised home where potential risks to children are identified and minimised. This means that children are able to move around the premises safely and independently. The emergency evacuation procedure is discussed and practised regularly and children are made aware of the smoke alarm and what may trigger it.

Children can access a range of good quality toys and equipment so that they enjoy a variety of different play experiences safely. A selection of toys is set out for children each day, from the wide range stored adjacent to the main play space. Resources are chosen by the childminder with care to ensure they are appropriate for the ages and stages of the children being cared for. They are frequently checked to ensure that there are no broken parts that could harm a child. She is careful to ensure that toys and resources with small parts are kept away from babies who could put them into their mouths.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to keep children safe. Children are safeguarded because the childminder clearly understands her role in child protection and has the contact number for the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem due to the secure and caring relationships the childminder has built with them. She talks to the children whilst they play, asking open ended

questions, and they respond positively with lots of conversation. Children feel good about themselves as they receive praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements. They show a real interest in what they are doing as the activities provided by the childminder are varied and stimulating. For example, children enjoy playing with a road and rail set and concentrate on it for long periods of time.

Younger children are yet to benefit fully from the childminder's understanding of their specific needs. They enjoy many activities and experiences to support their play and learning, but this is not yet fully supported by use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

The childminder takes children to a number of different groups outside the home which ensures that they have opportunities to socialise with other children. These include parent/carer and toddler groups and messy play groups as well as trips to the library.

Children are happy and settled in the care of this childminder who has a warm and caring approach. Routines have been established which are consistent with home life. Children relate well to one another and become friends in the childminder's home. They are well supported by the childminder who encourages them to extend and develop their experiences by listening to them and talking with them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children benefit because they are cared for in accordance with their parents' wishes. This is achieved through the positive and professional partnerships that the childminder has established with them. Children's individual needs are met as there is an effective verbal and written communication system in place.

Children develop positive and respectful attitudes towards themselves and others through the good example set for them by the childminder. She promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice by using a range of different resources from different faiths and cultures. For example, children talk about disabilities and inherited illnesses on 'Jeans for Genes Day' as they dress their dolls in jeans.

Although no children attending have learning difficulties and/or disabilities, the childminder is aware of the issues involved in welcoming such children into her home, for example, access and stairs, and the implications for the care of other minded children.

Children, from a young age, learn to share and take turns, for example, as they share the cars and trains whilst playing with the track. The childminder is a very good role model and uses positive strategies for managing behaviour. This supports children in the understanding of the boundaries that are set and to behave well.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are keen and eager to attend and enjoy their time in this setting. They feel at home and at ease with the childminder, her family and the pets which means their confidence grows as they initiate their play and learning. Space, play resources and activities are organised effectively to meet children's individual needs. Activities provide stimulating and challenging experiences for children of all ages within a fun and supportive environment.

The daily record of attendance clearly shows that ratios are always met, which enables the childminder to give appropriate support and supervision at all times.

All records which are required for the safe and effective management of the setting are maintained, well-organised and stored confidentially, thus ensuring that children's welfare is safeguarded.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At her last inspection, the childminder agreed to ensure permission to administer medication is in place prior to administration. She has now put in place appropriate forms which detail the type and dose of medicine to be given, and at what time, and this is signed by parents prior to and following any administration. In this way, children's health and welfare is safeguarded.

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):

- continue to improve outcomes for children by using the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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