

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160193
Inspection date	09 October 2007
Inspector	Toni Hanson
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 1996. She lives with her husband and their 12 year old son. The family live in a house in Upminster, Essex, which is within walking distance of local schools, shops, parks, bus routes and a main line train station. The play room and dining room on the ground floor are the main areas used for childminding. A fully enclosed garden is available for outside play.

The family have a dog, fish and a rabbit.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years at any one time and is currently minding six children aged three to 10 years. All attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks children to and from school each day. She takes children to local toddler groups and pre-school groups on a regular basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and is a qualified nursery nurse. Her qualification is equivalent to a NVQ (National Vocational Level) Level 3.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm, welcoming, childminding home. Their good health is promoted well, for example the childminder cleanses toys and surfaces in the playroom with an anti-bacterial spray. The childminder has completed a food hygiene awareness workshop and makes sure children's food is stored and prepared safely. She has an up-to-date knowledge of first aid procedures. Children are developing an understanding of good hygiene and personal care, through daily routines such as hand washing before meals. Menus provided for children are balanced and contain healthy options. Children attending after school are provided with a light tea, such as hot buttered toast and a choice of fresh fruit. The childminder uses discussion and provides activities such as tasting exotic fruits including kiwis and star fruits to encourage children to eat healthily. Older children are offered drinks regularly. Younger children are provided with beakers of water. These are individually labelled with each child's name to ensure they are not shared, this reduces the risk of cross infection.

A good range of indoor and outdoor activities are organised for children each day, these contribute to their physical good health. They walk to and from the school each day, visit the local park and join the childminder on dog walks. Children enjoy visiting a local pond to feed the ducks. The childminder's playroom has direct access to the garden. In warmer weather, the doors are left open to allow children to play freely indoors and outdoors. Children have regular access to the basket ball game, swing ball, playhouse and other outdoor equipment provided in the garden. Indoors, children practise their ball skills as they play skittles and they enjoy dancing to music. Children are able to have a quiet rest or sleep according to their individual needs. The childminder provides a travel cot for use by younger children. Older children can relax and access quiet activities such as watching a children's television programme or reading when they are tired.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure, safe and child centred environment. Space within the childminder's home is well organised. Children have ample room to play, a quiet place to rest and a comfortable area to enjoy their meals. The childminder's daily safety checks of her house and garden and her very good supervision of children help ensure they are protected from harm. Children have access to bright, welcoming playroom. A wide range of safe and suitable furniture, toys and equipment are provided for their use. These are age appropriate and well organised, for example small toys are kept out of the reach of young children. The childminder checks her toys frequently to ensure they remain in good condition. Appropriate safety equipment is provided to keep children safe, including a fire blanket in the kitchen, smoke alarms at each level of the house and a baby listening device to enable the childminder to monitor sleeping babies.

Children are developing an understanding of how to keep themselves safe. They know which areas of the childminder's home they can and cannot use. Doors to potentially unsuitable rooms such as the utility room are kept locked. Children know why it is not safe to tip their chairs back when they are sitting on them and that they must ask to use the television before switching it on. Children are kept safe on outings. Younger children are appropriately secured in a buggy. The childminder develops the older children's understanding of road safety by talking to them

about potential dangers and teaching them that the safest place to cross the road is at pedestrian crossings or with the 'lollipop' attendant. The childminder has a secure understanding of child protection issues and knows what she must do if she has concerns about a child in her care. To safeguard children, all adults in the family home are appropriately vetted. The childminder ensures unvetted people, such as visitors to her home are never left alone with children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Appropriate settling in procedures are in place to ensure that new children are settled gradually into the childminder's care. Children have access to a wide choice of good quality play resources suitable for their ages and stages of development. These are stored at children's level so they can independently choose the activities they need and enjoy. The childminder rotates her play provision to ensure the children remain stimulated and do not get bored.

When older children return from school they have a 'chill out' time, when they watch suitable television programmes, play on the computer game console or read books. The childminder plans and provides interesting activities for children that take into account their individual interests. They enjoy art and craft activities making collage pictures to take home or decorating plant pots to give parents as presents. Children have good opportunities to use their imaginations, they use brightly coloured sari material to make tents. They are keen to join in with board games. The childminder uses these experiences effectively to help children develop their letter and number skills as they play. Older children have a quiet place where they can complete their home work. The childminder offers appropriate support, for example listens to children read. The childminder is interested in what children do and say and provides them with good opportunities to play, have fun and develop new skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals, are confident in the childminder's care and have appropriate opportunities to learn about diversity and the wider world. They have access to suitable play resources designed to promote their understanding of diversity and the wider world; including dressing up clothes and books. Children explore different cultures as they eat Chinese food with chopsticks and make happy Diwali cards. They look at maps and talk about holiday destinations and where in the world family and friends live. Children explore their local community as they go for dog walks with the childminder and visit the park and library.

Children receive good support to help them feel secure and at home. The childminder is a good role model and treats children with care and respect. She manages children's behaviour calmly and patiently, this encourages them to behave well. Praise is used effectively to reward children's positive behaviour, such as helping to tidy up toys. This promotes their self-esteem. Children get on very well together, willingly taking turns on the computer game and sharing toys. They benefit from the childminder's close, positive working relationships with parents. Financial and care arrangements are agreed and confirmed through the use of written contracts, to ensure continuity of care for children. The childminder makes parents welcome in her home. She gives them verbal feedback about their children's progress each day and keeps older children's parents up-to-date with information from school.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children confidently make themselves at home in the welcoming, well organised childminding environment. They benefit from the childminder's commitment to working in partnership with parents and providing continuity of care for children. The childminder organises her home, resources and time well to meet the needs of the children in her care. She plans and provides interesting and enjoyable activities for children each day, to ensure they can relax, have fun and learn through their play. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder's vetting procedures ensure children are safeguarded. Children are supervised well and all areas of the premises are safe and suitable. Children's health is protected well. All the required documentation is efficiently maintained, up-to-date and stored securely, taking into account the need for confidentiality. This supports children's welfare. The childminder's registration certificate is framed and displayed in the playroom. Not all parents access this room each day, so this limits opportunities for some parents to read and check the childminder's registration details and status.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder's knowledge and understanding of first aid procedures has been updated. This enables her to take appropriate action if a child has an accident. She has also increased her range of play resources that reflect disability, to enable children to talk about different people and how they function.

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 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 that the childminding registration certificate is displayed so that parents can easily see and read it.

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