

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118775
Inspection date	19 March 2008
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 satisfactory. 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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged ten and twelve in Hornchurch, Essex. The whole ground floor 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 and is currently minding six children part-time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have two cats, one dog and gold fish.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and well-being is appropriately met because through daily routines they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times to minimise the spread of cross infection.

Children's health is further promoted because the childminder ensures adequate procedures are followed when changing younger children.

There are appropriate procedures in place for accidents and the administration of medication. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and ensures the medication and accident record is fully shared with parents to promote continuity of care. However, written parental consent has not been obtained to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children's parents provide a packed lunch and the childminder provides children's snacks. The children receive healthy snacks throughout the day, such as fruits. This helps children develop healthy eating habits. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children's packed lunches are healthy and nutritious. Children are offered regular drinks during the day. This prevents dehydration and encourages children to think about their personal needs.

The children enjoy regular daily physical exercise that contributes to keeping them healthy. The childminder walks to and from local schools everyday and children frequently go out on outings to the local park to feed the ducks and swans.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a warm and family like setting which promotes children's confidence. The children are happy and settled in their environment. Overall, they are happy and settled in their environment.

The childminder ensures children's toys are easily accessible and well presented. The toys on offer are age and developmentally appropriate. On their arrival from the school run they straight away play with the toys on offer. Children's toys are in good repair and the childminder ensures the resources conform to safety standards.

The children are cared for in a secure and safe environment. There are appropriate safety measures in place and the children receive adequate support during the day to maximise their safety. The childminder has implemented an emergency evacuation procedure and fire drills are regularly practised with children. This helps children become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency. During routine outings children's safety is further promoted because the childminder ensures younger children are transported in a buggy, children are encouraged to hold on to the push chair and they are taught basic road safety awareness. However, written parental consent has not been obtained to take children out on outings, public transport and photos. The childminder carries out regular risk assessments which further promote children's well-being while at the setting.

The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues and procedures. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are developing well because the childminder gives children appropriate support to enhance their development and learning. Children are developing good imaginative skills because they have access to a range of role play resources. During the day they spend time acting out real life situations when playing with tea set, dolls and ironing board.

The older children have access to the computer and they are closely monitored by the childminder when accessing the internet. The children take part in range of craft activities, such as painting, sticking and drawing. This helps develop children's creative skills. The younger children enjoy spending individual time with the childminder and during the day they benefit from close interactions, for example whilst being changed they laugh as they are tickled. The children receive lots of cuddles and spend time sitting on the childminder's lap for comfort.

The children benefit from leisurely walks with the childminder as they take the family pet dog for walks. They are able to engage in simple cooking activities, for example making butterfly cakes. This ensures children's play is fun.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's needs are appropriately met because the childminder has obtained most relevant information about children's specific needs. However, not all relevant information has been obtained or documented, such as children's first language, culture, religion, allergies and any specific dietary requirements. The children are developing an understanding of the wider world and community in which they live in because they have access to a suitable range of resources that reflect positive images, such as positive images, dolls, dressing up clothes and books.

The children are well behaved and the childminder talks to children about the house rules. The children benefit from consistent praise and the childminder uses appropriate strategies to manage children's behaviour, such as explanation and time out. This helps children develop an understanding of right from wrong. The childminder works closely with children's playgroup to agree on methods on managing children's behaviour. This further promotes consistency both within the setting and at community groups.

The childminder is flexible in her approach to childminding and works closely with parents to accommodate their work commitments. The childminder regularly shares information with parents verbally about children's progress and written information is obtained about children's daily routine. This further promotes working in partnership with parents and continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation of the day enables the childminder to spend individual time with children to support their care, learning and development. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder ensures children's attendance records are accurately recorded and up to date. This further promotes children's well-being. Documentation in relation to childminding activities is readily available for inspection and appropriately maintained with the exception of all relevant written parental consent, relevant information about children's backgrounds, individual needs, and lastly displaying her certificate of registration.

Overall, the children are cared for by a childminder who knows them well. They benefit from an informal environment which allows them to participate in both active and quieter activities.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection one recommendation was made and the childminder now has a fully equipped first aid box and she ensures its contents are regularly replenished. This promotes children's well-being 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:

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):

- display certificate of registration
- improve procedures to ensure all relevant information about all children's individual needs and backgrounds is obtained and documented including allergies, first language, culture and religion
- obtain written parental consent for taking children out on outings, photos, public transport and for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment

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