

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118839
Inspection date	12 February 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 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 1992. She lives with her husband, one adult child and her partner and grandson aged four. Their home is located in a residential area of Romford, Essex within walking distance of local parks, shops and schools. The whole ground floor and first floor bathroom is used for childminding. 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 three children under five full and part-time. The childminder also cares for children over eight years. The childminder walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family have no pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and is a member of the Havering North Childminding Network. The childminder has completed the Quality First assurance scheme for registered childminders.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean environment. There are good systems in place to maintain standards and limit the risk of cross infection, such as children are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times. The younger children have their individual towels, which are washed regularly and older children are encouraged to wipe their hands with disposable paper towels. The childminder aids and monitors hand washing for younger children promoting their independent skills. Older children know that they must wash their hands because of bacteria in air and it contaminates foods.

The childminder is vigilant about children's health and has obtained information about communicable diseases and has implemented a sick child policy. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate. She ensures her first aid box is well stocked and items are regularly replenished. In addition a travel first aid box is carried out on trips, which allows the childminder to appropriately care for children should they sustain a minor injury when out on outings and indoors.

All children's gross and fine motor skills are developing very well, which contributes to a healthy lifestyle. Younger children regularly attend the local Gym Tots where they have opportunities to take part in organised soft play activities. Additionally children confidently use a range of small tools, such as scissors, glue sticks and pens.

The childminder and parents provide children's meals. The children receive a range of healthy meals and snacks, for example fruits and freshly prepared meals. This helps children understand foods that are good for them.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a warm and family like environment, which promotes children's confidence and sense of belonging. The children are very well settled and comfortable in their surroundings.

The children are able to make informed decisions about their play and they are given resources and activities on request to support their learning and interests. The children have access to a varied range of toys that are in good repair and supports their all round development.

The childminder is vigilant about children's safety. She carries out both informal and formal risk assessments to maximise children's safety while at the setting, for example check lists are used for both outdoor and indoor including outings. Children's safety is further promoted because regular fire drills help children become familiar with the procedures so they learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely. However, systems for recording fire drills and the fire alarm test requires further development to ensure the date, year and other relevant information is documented.

The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues and the procedures to follow should she have a concern. This safeguards children's welfare within the setting. The childminder has implemented a child protection policy and this is fully shared with parents informing them of her duty to act upon any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are interested in the activities and resources on offer. The childminder plans a good range of both indoor and outdoor activities to further develop children's learning. Children are able to visit a number of places of interest, for example Hampton Court (Hairy Henry's Tour), Greenwich Museum and Old McDonald Farm. Children display extreme excitement about going on their trips, and on the day of the inspection they spend time making a picture using their travel card and information obtained from Hampton Court museum.

The childminder effectively works in partnership with children when planning outings. They are able to choose what they would like to do and where they would like to visit using the 'What's on for Families September 07 - February 08 guide. Children take part in growing flowers from bulbs and they are able to experience life cycles as they nurture butterflies from the chrysalis stage. They eagerly show adults their photo album and talk about the life cycle from the chrysalis, cocoon to the butterfly stage, and then lastly letting the butterflies fly off into the wild when they have fully grown.

The childminder has regard for the Birth to three matters framework and she carries out progress reports including trackers for younger children. The childminder formally plans children's long term activities. However, formal planning has yet to be implemented for children's day to day and weekly activities to further promote their learning.

Children's imaginative and creative skills are developing very well. They enjoy dressing up and equally making valentine cards for their parents. The childminder ensures children have access to a good range and assortment of craft materials and as a result they make a range of creative cards and pictures.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the wider world through outings and activities that introduce them to other cultures. They take part in various celebrations, such as Chinese New Year and inform adults about having a Chinese meal using chopsticks. Through planned activities children take part in making Christmas boxes for 'Operation Christmas Child'. This helps children develop a greater understanding of the needs of others. The children are further developing an understanding of similarities and differences because they have access to a good range of books that reflect positive images, for example 'Why do some people use wheelchairs?', 'The Skin I'm In', and Islamic, Christian and Jewish stories.

There are currently no children attending with special educational needs. However, the childminder has past experience of caring for children with additional needs and has a positive attitude towards providing an inclusive setting. Children behave well and they play harmoniously together. They are very polite and say "please" and "thank you" without promoting.

The childminder has developed good relationships with parents. She shares both informal and formal information with parents to promote continuity of care. The childminder is committed to working in partnership with parents and she has made scrap books for children's extended families that live abroad. The childminder has obtained all relevant information from parents about their children's individual needs and background to ensure their needs are fully known and met. The childminder has implemented a two-way communication book for younger children

to ensure communication is effectively maintained all times. Prospective and new parents are given an informative welcome pack allowing them to have a better understanding of the childminder's background and the care provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards and since the last inspection the childminder has attended a number of courses to further develop her knowledge and practice. In addition she has successfully completed the Quality First assurance scheme for registered childminders. This ensures she is able to provide appropriate care for the children she looks after.

The childminder has developed good relationships with children and she organises her day well to ensure children take part in a varied range of planned and informal activities. Children are happy in their surroundings and overall they are making good progress in their all round development.

The childminder has implemented a number of policies and these are fully shared with parents. She has put into practice detailed information about the children in her care and her childminding business. This further promotes the care and welfare of children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection one recommendation was made. The childminder now ensures that appropriate and comprehensive emergency contact details are taken on outings. This promotes children's welfare.

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):

- further improve the systems for recording fire drills to include the date and other relevant information including the date for the fire alarm record
- further develop procedures to formally plan children's day to day and weekly activities

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