

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	504237
Inspection date	16 November 2007
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 1994. She lives with her husband in a residential area of Barking, 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 at any one time and is currently minding six children under 8 years part-time. The childminder also cares for older children. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have no pets.

The childminder attends a local playgroup and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Good daily routines ensure that children from a young age understand the need for good personal hygiene, for example the childminder encourages children to wash their hands before mealtimes and they are adequately assisted to promote their independence.

Children's health is further promoted because there are appropriate systems in place to record medication given to children and the childminder has implemented documents to record prescribed and non-prescribed medication. Parents acknowledge entries in the medication record, which promotes continuity of care.

Children receive a good choice of nutritious meals and snacks, such as freshly prepared meals and fruit. This helps children develop good eating habits. The childminder encourages children to make informed choices about what they would like to eat and their independence is further promoted because the childminder supports children to set the table.

The children have access to a good range of outdoor equipment to enhance their gross motor skills, such as cars, bikes, scooters and play tunnels. Children regularly engage in outdoor play, which contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment. Children are well settled and the childminder provides a warm and friendly setting. The children have access to a bright, colourful and child centred playroom. The playroom is inviting with painted walls of fictional characters, for example Peter Pan and Mr Men.

Children have access to a good range of resources to support their learning and play. The toys on offer are age appropriate and in good repair. The play room houses child sized furniture ensuring children can participate in activities comfortably, for example when engaging in craft activities.

Regular fire drills help children become familiar with the procedures so they learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely. Children's safety is further promoted because there are appropriate safety measures in place, such as the use of safety gates, fireguard and the main door is fitted with a child safety lock. This ensures children can not leave the premises unsupervised.

The childminder has an appropriate understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse. However, children are not fully safeguarded because the childminder has an insufficient understanding of the procedures to follow should an allegation be made against her or others.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy listening to stories and are beginning to learn new words. Younger children's language development is further promoted because the childminder responds well to children's babbles and continually talks to children.

Children happily play with the toys on offer and during the day the childminder spends time playing with children. Children benefit from role play activities and are able to act out real life situations when playing with the kitchen and dolls house. This enhances children's imaginative skills.

Children are developing early problem solving skills as they play with simple puzzles. Children regularly attend a local playgroup, which allows them to interact with their peers and others. The childminder plans a range of craft activities and children are able to participate in sticking and painting activities with natural resources, such as leaves. Children's artwork is displayed in the playroom, which gives children a sense of achievement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well met because the childminder has obtained all relevant information about children's background. Children have access to a good range of resources that reflect positive images and through planned activities children are learning about their own culture and others, such as making divas and sampling Asian sweets for Diwali. This encourages children to develop a positive attitude towards others.

Children behave well and the childminder uses praise to promote children's good behaviour, for example during the inspection visit the childminder often refers to children as being clever. The childminder uses appropriate behaviour management strategies, which help children learn right from wrong, such as implementing house rules and explanation.

The childminder has developed positive relationships with parents, which promotes continuity of care. The childminder has obtained all relevant written parental consent and appropriate documentation is fully shared with parents, such as the accident and medication record. The childminder works in partnership with parents to ensure children are gradually settled into their new surroundings. Children are encouraged to bring a familiar toy from home to support a smooth transition from home to the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder holds a Level 2 childcare qualification and will be attending further child care related courses in the near future to enhance her current practices and knowledge. However, the childminder is not fully familiar with child protection procedures to promote the welfare of children.

Children receive a good level of support during the day to support their development. They are at ease and confident in their surroundings demonstrating that trusting relationships are built.

All required documents are in place, confidential and well maintained. The childminder ensures appropriate information is displayed for parents to see, such as the complaint procedure and her certificate of registration. This contributes to the welfare of children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has gathered all relevant information about children's background including their parent's details and the complaint procedure is now displayed for parents to see. This helps promote the welfare of children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 complaint 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):

- develop own knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures

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