

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY276712
Inspection date	29 November 2007
Inspector	Deirdra Keating
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 2004. She lives with her husband and four children aged six, 10, 11 and 13 in Colchester. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and one upstairs bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding six. Of these, five attend part-time and one full-time. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder has good procedures and routines that children quickly learn and understand. Children are encouraged to wash their hands and do so using a stool and antibacterial soap. The childminder also uses wipes to ensure that children's hands are clean before and after meals. The childminder has a good understanding of first aid

procedures and holds a valid first aid certificate. Parents provide clear written consents regarding emergency medical treatment and any medication requirements. This ensures that children are protected in case of an accident or emergency. The childminder proactively shares a sickness and medication policy with parents prior to minding. She uses good preventative measures when providing personal care to children and this ensures that children are not at risk of cross-infection. Children rest and sleep in line with their needs. A travel cot is available upstairs in a well-ventilated bedroom and some children sleep in a pushchair in line with parents' wishes. Children are checked very regularly to ensure they are safe and comfortable.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They enjoy varied, nutritious food and snacks, which comply with all special dietary requirements. The childminder prepares meals in advance from fresh ingredients. Snacks feature fresh fruit and occasional biscuits. Clear information is obtained regarding children's specific dietary requirements and the childminder meets individual needs very well as she has experience of children with specific food allergies. Children have free access to drinks as they become thirsty. This ensures children remain healthy. Children have good opportunities to participate in active play, which encourages physical development. They walk daily to local schools, visit the park and play in the garden; this ensures that children get daily fresh air and exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a homely and clean environment. The whole of the ground floor comprising of kitchen, bathroom, conservatory and lounge are used for minded children. The kitchen is well organised and has cupboard locks to prevent children gaining entry. The house and garden are kept secure with doors and gates all kept locked. Equipment has been arranged to enable children to eat and play together very comfortably. Children eat at a low-level table and chairs in the lounge. An adequate range of toys and resources are available for children to choose from. Toys are laid out on the floor and children happily select their favourite items.

Children's safety is maintained well by effective steps to reduce possible risks. The childminder conducts daily risk assessments early in the morning before the children arrive. This ensures that any risks are reduced. Potentially hazardous items are stored away from children in locked cupboards. Fire prevention equipment is all in place and fire drills are discussed with children. Children learn about road safety as they walk to school daily. This has enabled them to learn safe routines about how to cross the road.

Children are protected from potential harm as the childminder is very experienced. The childminder understands her responsibility to protect the children in her care. However, she does not have any information or contact numbers in the event of a concern. Any incidents or existing injuries are carefully documented and discussed with parents and carers.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder interacts well with the children, responding to their interests. She gives children good opportunities to reflect and learn through their play. She provides toys and resources that have particular appeal to the children. The childminder is gentle and calm, she is very intuitive of children's needs and consequently they are settled and secure. The children have a balance of free choice and daily adult-led activities. These include puzzles, drawing and messy play such as Play-Doh and icing biscuits. Children thoroughly enjoy imaginary play where they

recreate roles and experiences that they enjoy. They arrange dolls in buggies and pretend to feed them, this is supported well by the childminder who provides sensitive intervention when asked by the children. The childminder gets involved with children's play getting down onto their level and giving them praise and encouragement. Children become increasingly independent as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities. Children are actively encouraged towards gaining self-care skills such as; fastening clothes and putting on shoes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children settle well and play happily together. Individual records detail all requirements in order that children's needs can be met. Children enjoy a balanced range of activities including adult-led and child-led which are planned well to meet children's individual requirements and promote their development and learning. Children become aware of their differences and similarities as there are some resources that positively represent images of other cultures and beliefs such as dolls and books. Children from a range of ethnic backgrounds are warmly welcomed and anti-discriminatory practice is actively promoted for all children. Children with English as an additional language are supported well by the childminder who has learnt some keywords in their first language. The childminder would welcome a child with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, providing she could cater for their needs. She has a good understanding of the need to access support and respect parental wishes in order to promote children's welfare and development. The childminder would access information and support in order to look after a child with additional needs.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the needs of each age group and appropriate behaviour management strategies are in place. She is extremely calm and patient and consequently children's behaviour is good. Any minor incidents are shared with parents verbally at the end of the day. Written agreements are provided for each child in order that they can be looked after in accordance with their parents' wishes. Children benefit from a two-way sharing of information between parents and the childminder. A complaints procedure is displayed for parents and carers.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is very well organised and arranges the day well to support children's care, learning and play. The day is organised well to incorporate a good balance of activities both inside and outside. All adults in the house have been through appropriate checks to ensure they are safe to be with children. Children receive very good levels of support from the experienced and caring childminder. The childminder has attended training in order to support her registration. All relevant documentation is stored securely and confidentially and all requirements are met. A register with arrival and departure times recorded accurately is maintained. The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards. Consequently children's welfare, learning and care are well fostered. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. Written consents are now provided which ensures that children's health is not compromised. She was also asked to continue to develop

the range of toys and resources which reflect equal opportunities. There are some toys available including dolls and books and the childminder is proactively trying to expand these.

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):

- ensure that safeguarding procedures and contact numbers are available.

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