

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY356481
Inspection date	20 March 2008
Inspector	Lisa Paisley
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 2007. She lives with her husband and one child aged two years and a baby aged two months in Brentwood, 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 three children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five all day and two children over five before and after school and during the school holidays. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well promoted as they are looked after in a clean and caring environment. They learn the importance of good personal hygiene through established routines for hand washing, for example, before snacks and meals and after creative activities and using the toilet. Washing facilities are readily available and children are provided with individualised hand towels, warm running water and liquid soap, minimising the risk of cross-infection. The childminder supports young children when hand washing to promote their independence. There are clear written policies in place regarding the care of sick children and injured children. However, the childminder has not yet obtained written parental consent for seeking emergency advice or treatment, potentially comprising children's well-being. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a first aid box to hand, ensuring children's well-being should an accident occur. Children's health and medical needs are discussed with parents and relevant information recorded, enabling appropriate care to be provided.

Children benefit from a healthy and balanced diet as they enjoy a variety of meals and snacks with the childminder. Meals are provided by the parents who overall, provide balanced and nutritious foods. Snacks are provided in accordance with children's individual needs and in consultation with parents. Snacks include a choice of fresh fruit or vegetables, for example, apple, banana and pear. Mealtimes are a relaxed sociable time where children have the opportunity to talk about their day and good manners is developed and reinforced by the childminder. Children recognise when they are thirsty and drinks are accessible throughout the day, ensuring they remain well hydrated.

Children enjoy a good range of physical play experiences that contribute to their good health. Easy access to the rear garden gives them daily opportunities to enjoy the fresh air. A good range of outdoor toys promotes children's physical and co-ordination skills. The daily routine offers a mixture of active play and time for rests. The younger children sleep and rest according to their individual needs. There are regular trips out to the local library, toddler groups and parks and planned visits to the local fire station.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The home environment is welcoming and child friendly where children feel comfortable, secure and confident. Children have their own individual coats pegs with their photograph, helping to develop children's sense of belonging. They are able to move around freely and independently access a broad range of developmentally appropriate resources and equipment that is maintained in good condition. Resources are stored at children's level so they are able to choose what they would like to do, promoting their independence and enabling them to pursue their own interests. The childminder carefully supervises children's play and offers explanations to help children develop an awareness of their own and other children's safety.

Children's safety is maintained indoors as regular risk assessments are conducted by the childminder to minimise any risks to children. For example, all low-level glazing is safe, all cleaning materials and sharp knives are inaccessible to children and the premises, including the garden, are safe ensuring a child cannot leave unsupervised. Fire safety equipment is in place, there is a written emergency plan and all children take part in fire drills, ensuring that they

know how to leave the premises quickly and safely in the event of an emergency. Written and verbal procedures covering emergencies such as, a lost or uncollected child, are shared with parents, keeping them generally informed of the practices in place to protect their child.

Children are protected as the childminder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities in child protection and has a sound knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures and guidelines. However, she has not yet obtained the summary booklet 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused'. This may potentially comprise children's welfare. A written policy is in place and parents are informed of her role, reassuring them of their child's well-being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play and learn in a creative, calm and secure environment. They enjoy effective and purposeful interaction with the childminder who sits with the children and is interested and actively involved in their play, for example, completing puzzles and matching shapes. Children confidently choose toys and the childminder varies their play through a range of different activities and resources. Written activity plans are in place covering the six areas of learning, ensuring play experiences and activities match children's developmental progress. The childminder undertakes written observations to assess children's developmental progress and this is shared with the parents. This ensures parents are fully informed about their children's care and their overall developmental progress. All children are provided with a good range of activities such as creative activities, role play, construction, books, puzzles and a good selection of baby toys.

Children who attend after school enjoy their time at the childminder's as they are able to choose what activities and play experiences they want to participate in. They particularly enjoy playing in the garden, especially on the trampoline, and creative activities such as making Easter cards. The childminder also supports children in their home work and will provide sensitive and appropriate encouragement for children in completing their work.

The children are able to use their own ideas to further develop their imaginations and self-expression. Children's confidence and independence is developed as the childminder encourages children to try new activities in a safe and supportive environment. They look to the childminder for reassurance, help and assistance and she responds in a warm, caring and enthusiastic manner. Children understand the difference from right and wrong as the childminder uses a range of appropriate and sensitive strategies for managing children's behaviour. Children receive regular praise and encouragement, developing their self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and happy with the childminder who provides each child with good attention and support, valuing their individuality. Children are confident within the childminder's care and they develop a good sense of belonging. Children receive regular positive praise from the childminder to build on their sense of self-worth and success. They play with resources, such as books, puzzles, and dolls and they celebrate a number of festivals such as Easter, Diwali, Mother's Day and Christmas. All children are included and activities are not gender specific.

Although the childminder is currently not looking after children who have learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities she has a good understanding and practical experience of supporting children with varying needs. As a result, she is proactive and takes positive steps in ensuring that children are fully integrated in the home and their welfare is effectively promoted and supported. Children are very well behaved, polite and considerate towards one another as the childminder promotes a calm, quiet environment valuing respect for one another. The childminder manages the children's behaviour very well, as she uses positive praise and encouragement to reinforce good behaviour. Children are encouraged to devise their own rules within the home such as no climbing and no shouting. The rules poster is displayed in the hall with all the children's signatures, developing children's understanding of other peoples' feelings and appropriate behaviour.

Children are cared for effectively because the childminder has a good relationship with their parents and she is professional in her role as a childminder. All the required documents and consents are in place to ensure children are cared for according to parents' wishes. The childminder ensures parents are kept well informed through friendly daily discussions as children arrive or leave. A written daily diary is kept for young children and this is shared with the parents. Parents are made aware of the procedure to follow should they wish to make a complaint or raise a concern. The childminder has provided consistent care for children over several years, demonstrating parents' ongoing satisfaction in the care provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

A calm, welcoming and child-centred environment is provided by the childminder, ensuring children feel happy and secure. Space is well organised so children can play, eat and rest in comfort, meeting their individual needs. The childminder has a high regard for the well-being of all the children in her care, organising her time and resources appropriately to ensure children are stimulated and enjoy their time in her care. Children take an active part in deciding what activities they would like to do, fostering their confidence and independence. Parents' wishes are actively sought and respected, enabling appropriate care to be provided.

A good range of written policies and procedures, which are comprehensive, clearly formatted and accessible, are in place. Documentation is used to further promote the care and welfare of children. Records are continually updated enabling the childminder to spend her working day with the children. The childminder has a Level four early years qualification and an extensive range of knowledge and practical experience in caring for children under five years old. She has completed the Introduction to Childminding Practice (ICP) and first aid training. The childminder continues to identify areas for personal development, as she ensures that she is up to date and knowledgeable of current issues through attending training. As a result, children benefit from the good quality care.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- obtain written parental consent for seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future
- obtain the government booklet 'what to do if you are worried a child is being abused'.

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