

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY262246
Inspection date	28 February 2008
Inspector	Suzanne Joyce Stedman
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 four children aged eight, ten, 17 and 18 in South Ockendon, 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding three siblings after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have no pets.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are protected effectively from cross-infection and their health is promoted because the childminder implements appropriate hygiene practices. The childminder has a written health

policy which demonstrates her understanding of health and hygiene issues. All the required documentation to promote the children's good health is in place.

Children benefit from a healthy diet provided by the childminder. Most food is prepared using fresh ingredients and the childminder uses her knowledge of healthy eating to ensure that children eat well. Drinks are made available throughout the time the children are in the childminder's care. The childminder ensures that she is aware of allergies and other special dietary requirements so that children's individual needs are met.

Children have good opportunities to take part in physical activity and develop their skills because the childminder plans a good range of activities and play opportunities. For example, walking to and from school, going to the local park and playing in the garden. Children benefit from fresh air each day which stimulates their minds and bodies.

Children are learning about the importance of a healthy lifestyle as they are encouraged to talk about foods which are good for them, wash their hands to prevent germs spreading and learn that physical activity is fun. This promotes a positive attitude and encourages them to adopt this lifestyle for their future good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and comfortable home which promotes their sense of security. Children have access to a well-equipped garden where they can play freely and safely. Children's all round development is promoted well because the childminder has a range of toys and play materials. Equipment and play resources are checked regularly to ensure they remain safe for children to use. They play in a home which is regularly checked by the childminder for safety. She demonstrates her understanding of safety issues in her written safety policy and her emergency evacuation plan.

Children are effectively learning about keeping themselves safe through everyday routines. This is because the childminder reinforces safety measures with the children. For example, they talk about road safety when walking to and from school.

Children are protected because the childminder has an understanding of her role in safeguarding children. The childminder is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and the appropriate procedures to follow if she has any concerns. She has a written safeguarding children policy which she shares with parents and carers.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are confident because they are secure and settled. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement which helps them to feel good about themselves. Children's independence is promoted because they have easy access to the toys and resources available to them. This enables them to make decisions about what they do and encourages effective play and learning because they are motivated by their own interests and ideas.

Children's language development is promoted as they talk with the childminder and each other. Children's early mathematical skills are promoted as they play board games. Children use their imaginations as they engage in 'pretend' play with the dressing-up clothes.

Children have a busy time at the childminder's engaged in purposeful play. They are provided with a range of play opportunities and experiences that promote their development and learning. Children have time for free play as well as spending time on more adult-led activities such as arts and crafts. This is because the childminder understands that children learn through play and should have fun while learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The children have good relationships with the childminder and have a strong sense of belonging because they are made to feel valued as part of an extended family.

All children are treated as individuals and with respect by the childminder, which promotes their sense of self-worth effectively. Children are provided with equality of opportunity in their everyday routines and all are enabled to take part in activities and experiences. For example, boys and girls play with a range of play materials that promote their understanding of positive gender roles.

Children learn good social skills to enable them to build strong and warm relationships with the childminder and the other children. They learn how to share and take turns and the older children learn how to regulate their own behaviour through talking about their feelings and frustrations. Children's good behaviour is promoted through lots of positive language and encouragement. Subsequently, children are well-behaved, polite and helpful.

The children benefit from seeing the positive relationships between the childminder and their parents and carers. The childminder actively promotes an open two way communication with all parents and carers to ensure that she can offer consistent and good quality care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are protected from non-vetted persons because the childminder ensures that all persons in the household are vetted and that non-vetted persons do not have unsupervised access to children. Children's needs are met because the childminder ensures that the required adult to child ratios are met. The childminder's husband is a named assistant.

Children's needs are met effectively because the childminder organises space and resources to promote the children's welfare and learning.

The childminder maintains the required records, policies and procedures for the efficient and safe management of the childminding service. However, children's details and permission slips need to be individually recorded. The childminder ensures that all documentation about individual children is shared with their parents and carers.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to complete a local authority approved childminder's course prior to recommencing childminding and ensure that the low-level glass panels, the bathroom lock, electrical wire and cleaning materials are safe or inaccessible. She

has attended training but has not as yet received a certificate of attendance and all the safety issues have been addressed allowing children to have safe access to the premises.

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 have procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and to keep a record of complaints and their outcome.

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):

- obtain a copy of training course certificate
- ensure all paperwork is fully completed for each individual child.

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