

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118653
Inspection date	12 March 2008
Inspector	Caroline Preston

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 1999. She lives with her husband and two children aged 11 and 14 years in Upminster in the London borough of Havering. The whole of the ground floor, and the fourth and fifth bedrooms are registered for use and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder works with an assistant and is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for three children under five all day and two children over five before and after school, on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are offered a varied range of play experiences that promote good physical development. They visit the local park most days, use the safe, secure garden, using play resources, such as balls, water and sand play, slides and swings. Children also take part in physical play at the local toddler groups they attend with the childminder, therefore, children take part in physical play regularly in many different environments. Children learn about hygiene through toilet training routines when they are ready, after discussions with their parents, children are confident to

talk with the childminder when they want to use the toilet. They wash their hands and are praised afterwards, which builds their confidence during daily care routines. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and maintains a fully stocked first aid box, so is aware of current procedures. Consent for emergency medical treatment has been sought from parents, therefore, the childminder has appropriate procedures in place for emergencies. Children help prepare their meals after school, so learn about food hygiene, preparation of food and healthy foods. Young children sit comfortably eating breakfast, they enjoy toast and fruit, and a drink in the morning. Young children are confident to ask at different times during the day for fruit, showing confidence and independence.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Good steps are taken to protect children's safety, there are working smoke alarms on each level of the house, a fire blanket on the wall in the kitchen, a safe and secure garden and appropriate stair gates. Children are made aware of the fire procedure, as they practise regularly with the childminder. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues, therefore is aware of the correct procedure to follow if she suspected a child was being abused, this supports children's wellbeing. Children have access to a varied range of play resources that support their development; they are able to choose from the large soft play bag, which contains books, puzzles, dolls, games and cars. Toys are rotated regularly so that children are always stimulated. The environment is safe, warm and clean, children have access to the breakfast room, conservatory and front room, therefore, have plenty of space to move around freely.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children learn through taking part in a good range of activities, including creative play, sticking, gluing, painting and singing. They learn about how things grow by planting bulbs in the garden and monitoring how long it takes for them to grow. They visit the Local Park, library and duck pond. Children are involved in spontaneous learning as they discuss shapes and colours in the local environment as they walk to school. Children are taken out to lunch to celebrate birthdays, such as Prezzo's and Pizza Express, so learn about celebrations and eating out in local restaurants, which builds their confidence. The childminder interacts well with the children sitting and playing with them, constantly engaging them in discussions, she also sits back and lets children be independent. Children are happy and content and respond well to the childminder. Younger children take part in drawing activities, sitting at the table and concentrating, they look through books confidently and roll the ball backwards and forwards to the childminder. Therefore, show confidence during activities appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Partnership with parents is good because the childminder talks to parents every day, exchanging relevant information about their child. This builds positive working relationships, therefore, benefits the child. However, written information about the childminding service and any policies and procedures have not been developed. Children learn right from wrong, as sound strategies are used to support children's understanding, such as distraction, withdrawal from the situation and explanation of why behaviour is unacceptable. Children are encouraged when they behave

well, which builds self-esteem and confidence. Children learn about the wider world through access to a range of appropriate play resources and celebration of their own cultures, for example, the Jewish New year, Christmas and Easter. Sound systems are in place to support children with learning difficulties, therefore, children's individual needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The organisation of the childminding is good, children are offered a sound range of play experiences and are cared for well, as all their individual needs are met. Space and play resources are organised so that children have free choice and plenty of space to move freely and choose what rooms they want to play in, including the front room, breakfast room and conservatory, they also have access to the well maintained garden. All adults have undergone suitability checks including the assistant, therefore, appropriate procedures have been followed. All required documentation is in place to ensure the care and wellbeing of the children, including a daily register of attendance and parental contracts. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to develop and practise the fire drill, which is now practised regularly, these improvements support the wellbeing of the children.

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):

- develop information to give parents about routines and childcare practice, including any policies and 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