

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118745
Inspection date	04 February 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 1998. She lives with her husband and three adult children in Upminster in the London borough of Havering. The whole of the 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 children under five all day and two children over five before and after school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children take part in a good range of physical play activities. They have use of the safe and secure garden and they walk to and from school, often visiting the park on the way home. Children listen and dance to music and they walk to the local library. Therefore, this supports their well-being and health. Children learn about hygiene, as they are encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating and after using the toilet, which is easily accessible downstairs. They use anti-bacterial soap and paper towels, which help stop spread of infection. The

childminder holds a current first aid certificate and is a member of the British Red Cross, so has a good awareness of health and safety procedures, so children are kept safe and secure. Consent has been obtained for emergency medical treatment and all accident and medication records are complete. Children are offered nutritious home made meals. These include porridge with various fruit toppings, jacket potato, pasta with cheese and vegetables, salads and home made fish pie. This contributes to children's understanding of healthy eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are protected from possible child abuse because the childminder has a good understanding of the different types of abuse. The possible signs and symptoms of abuse and who and how to make a referral to. Children have access to play resources that help support their development and keep them stimulated and engaged. All play resources are clean and safe and easily accessible in the play room and are rotated by the childminder. These include programmable toys, puzzles, books, cars, arts and crafts, various games and building blocks. Children benefit from being cared for in a well maintained, clean, safe environment, where they are free to move around whilst being supervised well. Children are kept safe, as all safety precautions are in place. Children learn about fire safety as they regularly practise the fire drill and discuss road safety with the childminder. This supports their understanding of possible dangers and how to keep themselves safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children sit and play, showing confidence in choosing from the many play resources available to them in the front room. Children build and construct, play with musical instruments, put together puzzles and play with the alphabet game. The childminder interacts very well, asking questions and encouraging children to think and learn. She has good relationships with them and they clearly speak her name and respond to her well. Children are engaged and stimulated moving from one activity to another, concentrating well. Children have many opportunities to learn by visiting the local library, park and forest, where they learn about animals and nature and the natural environment. Children take part in play experiences such as role play, arts and crafts and many games. Therefore they are content and happy in the childminder's company.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have too few opportunities to access play resources promoting diversity in all areas, such as disabilities and promoting different cultures, therefore have missed learning experiences. Children learn about their own cultural backgrounds, as they discuss the different countries their parents are from on the globe with the childminder. Children celebrate their own religious backgrounds through discussing baptism and communion within the catholic religion. Therefore have a clear identity of themselves in a positive way. The childminder has clear systems in place to support children with any learning difficulties. Children behave well and the childminder supports children in learning about acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. She works closely with the parents and uses strategies such as behaviour charts. Therefore children learn to be kind and respectful towards each other and adults, which increases their sense of worth. Partnership with parents is good. Children benefit from strong working relationships between the childminder and parents, daily information is exchanged, which secures the children's health

and well-being. Parent's record they are happy with the care their children receive, for example, a parent left a reference for the inspector carrying out the inspection. In this she praised the childminder's care she offers her children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder provides children with good care. All household members have been appropriately vetted, therefore safe to be around children. Space and play resources support children's development, and play experiences offered keep children engaged and stimulated throughout the day. All relevant documentation required for the safe care of children is in place, and kept confidential. The childminder has also undertaken further training, including Birth to three matters, Early Years Foundation Stage and Child Protection. Therefore, this benefits the children as the care they receive improves. 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 ensure all adult household members have undertaken suitability checks. All household members have now undergone suitability checks; therefore these improvements ensure the safety 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):

- provide a range of play resources that promote diversity.

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