

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY350715
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 July 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Justine Leong
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 two children aged eight and six years. They live in a residential area of Colne Engaine, Essex. The whole of the premises is used for childminding and there is an 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 the age of five years, on a part-time basis. The childminder attends the local mother and toddler group. The family has a pet cat.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children remain generally healthy at the setting as they are encouraged to follow appropriate hygiene routines. Children have access to warm water and soap and wash their hands after playing in the garden, after using the toilet and before eating. The childminder has completed paediatric first aid training and there is an appropriately stocked first aid box available, helping to ensure children are generally well cared for in the event of a medical emergency. However,

the childminder has not obtained written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice, or to administer medication, potentially compromising children's health. There is a sickness policy in place and this is shared with parents, helping to ensure cross-infection is minimised if children are unwell.

Children have regular opportunities to play outside in the secure garden. They enjoy fresh air and physical exercise and develop a range of physical skills. For example, children develop balance and coordination as they play with bats, balls, bicycles and ride-on toys. The childminder also takes children on regular walks to the local park. Children rest and sleep according to their own individual routines. Younger children sleep upstairs in a travel cot and each child has their own bed linen.

Children's individual needs with reference to food and drink are met as the childminder provides a variety of nutritious foods at snack and meal times. Children sit together to share healthy snacks such as fresh fruit, breadsticks and crackers and drinks of juice or water. Children have constant access to drinks to ensure they do not become dehydrated. Healthy meals such as fish or chicken and vegetables are provided, in line with children's individual dietary requirements.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a clean, warm and spacious environment where they move around freely and independently under the childminder's supervision. Children remain safe at the setting as the childminder completes informal risk assessments and takes steps to minimise risks. For instance, socket covers are in place on all low-level plug sockets and safety gates effectively restrict children's access to areas such as the kitchen. Fire alarms and a fire blanket are in place and the childminder has considered an emergency evacuation procedure.

Children have access to a stimulating range of toys and equipment that meet safety standards. These are regularly cleaned and checked for signs of damage. Many resources are appropriately stored at child height to allow children to access them safely and independently. Children are developing an understanding of how to keep themselves safe as the childminder reminds them of safety rules within the home and practises road safety with them when outside. Security is given high priority as the childminder ensures that external doors are kept locked and visitors are vetted and have their identification checked. Children's welfare is well promoted as the childminder has undertaken child protection training and demonstrates a good understanding of her role in protecting children.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the warm and child-friendly environment. They enjoy spending time exploring the range of toys and equipment provided by the childminder based on her sound knowledge of child development. Children are able to independently select some resources, helping to ensure they remain interested. Flexible daily routines offer a variety of play activities often based on imaginative play. Children play with construction toys, puzzles, role play equipment and small world toys and make connections to their own experiences. The childminder often joins in with their play, encouraging them to take turns and share. Effective questioning is used to consolidate and extend children's language and encourage them to think.

Children are developing in confidence and self-esteem as the childminder listens attentively and demonstrates that their responses are highly valued. Independence is encouraged as the childminder allows children time to try to achieve things for themselves before offering assistance, for example when putting on their own shoes. They also benefit from regular opportunities to enjoy creative activities as the childminder provides resources for painting, cooking or cutting and sticking. Children are beginning to build positive relationships and are comfortable and relaxed in the care of the childminder.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Regular daily routines help to foster a sense of security and children are relaxed and confident in the childminder's care. Children are developing a strong sense of belonging as, for instance, the childminder encourages them to bring familiar items from home and displays examples of their work around the setting. All children have equal access to toys and equipment that meet their individual needs so they can become confident and independent. However, children have limited opportunities to learn about a range of cultures, beliefs and abilities, potentially hindering their development of an understanding of the wider world.

The childminder is polite and calm, acting as a good role model for behaviour. Positive behaviour strategies such as praise, explanation and encouragement are consistently employed. Children understand what is expected of them and, consequently, behaviour is good. Children benefit from the positive relationships the childminder fosters with their parents. Comprehensive daily diaries are completed for younger children, detailing eating and sleeping patterns and activities the child has participated in. This ensures parents and carers are kept fully informed of the day their child has had and any significant events. Parents praise the high levels of care and attention their children receive at the setting. However, the childminder has not informed parents of the procedure to follow if they wish to make a complaint.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her home and time to provide an environment in which children are comfortable and secure. She demonstrates a sound knowledge of the National Standards and her responsibility to comply with these. However, the registration certificate is not clearly displayed, to ensure parents are aware of the conditions of registration. Children benefit as space and resources are organised to provide a range of activities, supporting their health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. The childminder has attended relevant training to support her registration.

Accurate checks are in place to ensure children are cared for by a suitably vetted person and children are never left alone with any person not vetted. Registers are maintained, showing children's actual hours of attendance. The childminder informs parents of her childcare practices and has obtained some written parental permissions to ensure children are generally cared for in line with their parents' wishes. Overall, children's needs are met.

### **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 permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice for all children
- ensure written parental permission is in place to administer medication to children
- provide resources and play opportunities for children to learn about the wider world
- ensure parents and carers are aware of the complaints procedure.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)