

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY357564
Inspection date	30 July 2008
Inspector	Janette Elaina Lockwood
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 outstanding. 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 adult child in Wickford, 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years and two children over five years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The home is extremely clean and hygienic so children are cared for in very healthy environment. They have their own hand towels and changing mats to minimise cross-infection. The childminder teaches children the importance of good hygiene practices through repetition and activities, so children are learning healthy habits for themselves.

The childminder pays particular attention to finding out children's health history so she can care for them properly. She ensures parents are well aware of her child sickness policy, which is very comprehensive. She obtains written permission to seek emergency advice or treatment and has excellent, clearly written policies for managing accidents so parents can be assured she will manage situations appropriately and that children's needs are met.

The childminder has received an environmental health inspection where there were no actions raised because she had implemented food safety standards successfully. For example, checking and recording the temperature of her fridge so that food is stored properly.

Children benefit from a very healthy and nutritious diet which includes many fresh fruits and vegetables; the childminder cooks appetising meals. Children thoroughly enjoy eating fruit which they have grown themselves such as strawberries and competently cut up their own fruit using a special safety knife. Parents know what the children are eating as the childminder provides a menu for them and children talk enthusiastically about the new foods they have tasted. Children are able to access fresh drinking water throughout the day by using a dispenser so they can begin to recognise when they are thirsty and not become dehydrated.

The childminder provides children with frequent opportunities for outside play so they are learning practical physical skills such as putting on their own shoes. They wear hats in the garden and understand they must do so to be safe in the sunshine. The childminder allows outside play all year round and there are daily walks to the park and to the school. Children confidently talk about what helps to make them healthy and have ample opportunities to develop their physical skills through a wide range of well planned activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The home is extremely well ordered and highly organised for the care of young children. The main playroom is a designated room for children, which is brightly decorated with posters and has toys stored in clear containers with picture labels to enable children to make informed choices about their play. There is easy access to a safe, enclosed garden where children can extend their play in the fresh air. A large amount of good quality equipment, suitable for the needs of the children attending, is available and kept clean and safe. This includes a host of good quality games designed for interaction and for children to learn through their play. The childminder ensures she carries out thorough daily safety checks as well as more formal written risk assessments to keep children very safe.

The childminder clearly displays her fire safety plan and carries out fire safety checks, thinking carefully about how to keep children safe in the event of an emergency. She holds clear policies for uncollected children and for managing a lost child incident. The childminder asks visitors to sign a visitors' book so she can keep a log of who children come into contact with.

Children talk confidently about road safety and what they need to do to help keep themselves safe. The childminder has written information about road safety and the seatbelt laws to ensure she is up-to-date on the legislation.

The childminder has a very detailed, clear safeguarding policy and is confident to talk about child protection issues to demonstrate her understanding of the subject. She is certain about her responsibilities to ensure children are safe and has several relevant phone numbers to make

a referral or gain advice about children. Parents are aware of the written policy and have signed to say they have read and understood it.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder is proactive in helping children to build positive relationships and develop their self esteem by giving them frequent opportunities to practise the things they know. For example, helping to complete the weather and date chart each day helps them to feel a sense of success and the childminder gives the children plenty of praise for their efforts. Children demonstrate their sense of belonging as they confidently move from the playroom into the lounge to use the space for a puppet show which the childminder takes time to watch. Interaction between the childminder and children is extremely effective. She listens to what the children say with interest, skilfully using opportunities whilst children play to encourage learning in different areas and as a result, children's all round development is enhanced greatly.

The childminder organises her time very well to ensure she can meet the needs of individual children. For example, she uses opportunities when younger children sleep each day to ensure she plays interactive games with the older ones. This helps them learn to take turns, to count and to understand simple game rules and the childminder shows genuine enthusiasm with the children.

The childminder has a systematic approach to observing the children and finding out what they know and what they need to do next in their play and learning. She bases the activities on children's interests and is already gearing herself up for the new Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure she continues to provide a quality service and experiences for children.

Younger children benefit from exciting activities such as using a treasure bag for heuristic play, examining each safe object carefully as they pull it from the bag. The childminder ensures she includes ample opportunities for younger children to learn through normal situations. For example, counting with the baby as she wipes their hands and face after lunch.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has an excellent equality policy and asks parents to give her relevant information about their child's background to help her care for them according to their needs. She has a large range of toys and books which reflect diversity and helps children to understand and appreciate the different ways in which people live their lives. She has a festival calendar to help her arrange activities to celebrate aspects of world festivals and learns about different cultures herself. The childminder finds out information, providing a range of supporting resources to help bring the activities to life so children understand more about them.

The childminder appreciates that some children have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and endeavours to be proactive, building children's independence and confidence by organising the setting so it is inclusive. She takes each child's needs into consideration in her planning and seeks further training to help her manage learning difficulties and/or disabilities appropriately for the benefit of the children.

Children behave well with the childminder as she skilfully lays down some simple rules with children early on so they know the boundaries and accept them. She encourages the very good

behaviour by constantly using praise and is positive in her methods for managing any unwanted behaviour. The childminder stays calm and uses a quiet but assertive manner and children respond very well to this.

The childminder has built very good, trusting relationships with parents. She asks them to complete a well thought out 'satisfaction questionnaire' to help her establish what she can do to improve her service and how she is performing against their original expectations. She has a well written communication policy and seizes daily opportunities to exchange information about the children. The childminder explains to parents how the complaints policy will be followed and shows them her comprehensive written policy so they are aware of the actions she will take if they are unhappy with any aspects of her care. She makes sure she obtains all the necessary permission forms from parents so they feel they can influence the care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder is extremely well organised in her practices and has an excellent understanding and ability to meet the National Standards for childminding. She clearly understands her conditions of registration and strives to be the best she can by constantly reviewing her practices. She continually improves her understanding of childcare through attending courses and is currently undertaking the Diploma in Childminding Practice. In addition, she seeks further information by using the internet to keep up-to-date with current issues.

The childminder has an assistant for occasional cover who has undergone the relevant vetting checks and the childminder fully understands her responsibilities to monitor their work. She organises her space, resources and time extremely well and writes up daily routines and plans ahead so that children can enjoy a wide range of activities. The register is kept up-to-date and the childminder displays all of her training certificates and registration certificate for parents to see. She uses a designated room for children which is highly organised to help children play and learn in safety and comfort. Overall children's needs are met.

Records, policies and procedures which are necessary to meet the National Standards are clearly kept and available on the premises.

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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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