

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY359938
Inspection date	21 May 2008
Inspector	Lisa Paisley
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 child aged 15 months in Basildon, Essex. All areas of the childminder's house are 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 two children under five all day. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive in the healthy environment where they frequently enjoy fresh air and exercise. They enjoy an excellent range of physical activities which helps keep them healthy such as walks to the local park, library for singing and story sessions and regular visits to the local

toddler groups. There are also regular planned outings further a field, for example, Marsh Farm. All children have access to physical play through the excellent range of resources the childminder provides, which are mainly outside. Children have very good opportunities to rest and be active, according to their individual needs, in the home.

Children are exceptionally well protected from the spread of infection as the childminder applies excellent standards of hygiene to ensure their good health. The home is exceptionally clean and well-maintained. Proactive steps are taken to protect the children's health, for example, older children are gently reminded to wash their hands after playing in the garden and before mealtimes. The childminder ensures babies wipe their hands with disposable wipes before snack and meals. Children have access to warm running water, liquid soap and individual hand towels and the effective nappy changing procedures further minimises the risk of cross-infection.

The childminder has excellent procedures and policies in place to record accidents, medication administered and for the treatment of emergency and medical advice. This means that parents are kept informed and their wishes are acknowledged and adhered to. The childminder is able to provide effective and appropriate treatment in the event of children having an accident, because she has undertaken relevant first aid training.

Children enjoy a wide range of healthy meals, which are provided by the childminder, including breakfast, snacks, lunches and teas. Freshly cooked food is provided which are low in salt and sugar content and meals consider individual children's needs. Written menus detail the type of food and snacks that the childminder provides, for example, butternut squash risotto, cod in a cheese sauce, chicken and pasta. These are served to children in a well organised social setting, where children develop a excellent range of social skills as the childminder effectively supports children during meals and snacks. Drinks are freely available, ensuring children remain hydrated during the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Space is exceptionally well organised, enabling children to freely explore and take risks while being protected from harm. Children's artwork is displayed in the designated play area valuing their achievements. Attractive child-sized furniture is provided for children to sit and play together, this includes the ball pool and the outdoor sand pit. Children access an extensive and outstanding range of good quality, safe and suitable toys and resources that are creatively displayed for independent choice. Children know how to keep themselves safe in the home as they tidy away toys after use and they participate in monthly fire drills. As a result, children are developing an understanding of how to evacuate the home safely in the event of an emergency or an incident.

Exceptional safety precautions have been taken to minimise accidents. For example, the fire and all low-level electrical sockets are protected; a safety gate is in place and is securely mounted and the premises including the garden is safe and secure ensuring children cannot leave unsupervised. There is a detailed emergency evacuation plan in place and this is regularly practised with all children and the outcome recorded. The childminder carries out a wide range of checks on the house to ensure the environment is safe for children and these are recorded in the detailed risk assessment. The risk of accidents outside the home is reduced, because the childminder is conscientious about ensuring children are safe whilst on outings. For example, all children are safely restrained in the car and appropriate equipment is used when walking to

and from the park. The childminder ensures children are supervised at all times as routines are effectively organised.

Children's welfare is extensively safeguarded. The childminder has an excellent knowledge, understanding and practical experience of the different types and possible signs of abuse. She knows the procedure to be followed if she has a concern about a child, including contact details of social services. There is a comprehensive written child protection policy in place and updated information has been obtained with regards to the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). Child protection information is shared with parents, this ensures that they are fully aware of her role, reassuring them of their child's safety and welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children play and learn in a calm, warm, creative and secure environment. They enjoy effective and purposeful interaction with the childminder who sits with the children and is interested and actively involved in their play, for example, exploring the treasure baskets and sharing books. Children are extremely confident and secure as they choose toys and activities and have cuddles with the childminder. Children's play experiences are varied and interesting as activities extensively cover all areas of play, for example, malleable and sensory activities, role play, physical play and quiet times during the day. Written activity plans covers the six areas of learning and include evaluations of activities. Children's developmental progress is tracked through the stepping stones, using observations and photographs to record children's play and learning and this is shared with the parents. Consequently, activity plans and play experiences closely match children's interests and abilities.

All children are provided with an extensive range of activities such as painting, role play, construction, books, puzzles, sand and board games. During the warmer weather children have free-flow indoor and outdoor play. Children are able to use their own ideas to further develop their imaginations and self-expression. Photographs are taken of activities, trips out and artwork; these are shared with both the children and parents. As a result, children have access to an excellent range of play activities and experiences.

Children have established excellent relationships with both the childminder, her own child and other children in her care. They relate exceptionally well to the childminder because she joins in with their play at their level and is positive in her interactions with the children. The children enjoy the close contact with the childminder, for example, supporting children while playing in the sand pit in an effective and purposeful manner. Children are happy and secure as a result of the childminder's positive approach and support. Younger children learn to socialise with others and receive an excellent balance of home-based play opportunities with first-hand practical experiences and outside play activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are relaxed and happy with the childminder, who provides each child with good attention and support, valuing their individuality. They are exceptionally confident and they develop a very strong sense of belonging. Children receive positive praise from the childminder. They play with resources such as books, puzzles, dolls and dressing up clothes, which present them with positive images of different cultures and backgrounds. The childminder has an excellent working knowledge and practical experience of valuing children's differences and similarities.

All children are included and activities are not gender specific. As a result an inclusive environment is provided for all children.

The childminder has an exceptional working knowledge and practical experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or children with English as an additional language. She has a very positive approach to this subject and an excellent understanding of how she would adapt her practice to be fully inclusive.

Children's behaviour is exceptionally well managed in a calm, quiet manner. Children are very well behaved, polite and considerate towards one another as the childminder promotes a calm, quiet environment valuing respect for one another. Children are co-operative, they are able to share and co-operate in their play and follow requests from the childminder, for example, young children organising themselves prior to playing in the garden. The childminder manages the children's behaviour exceptionally well, as she uses positive praise and encouragement to reinforce good behaviour. This helps develop children's understanding of right and wrong and to begin to understand the consequences of their behaviour. Exemplary attention is given to promoting positive behaviour with all children.

The childminder has a very professional, positive and friendly approach towards her working relationship with parents. This ensures that successful relationships have been developed with parents and that the childminder has an exceptional working knowledge and understanding of the needs of individual children. Daily verbal and written information is shared very effectively and the childminder ensures parents are aware of all aspects of their child's care throughout the day such as the provision for meals and activities they have undertaken. She ensures parents read and understand her policies and procedures and there is a prospectus in place for all parents to take home. The childminder makes time to discuss these and all other issues with them, including her compliments and complaints book, which they are able to freely access. This provides a firm basis for partnership working, which has a very positive impact on the care on the children.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are empowered in the exceptionally well-organised, child-centred environment in which they are given time and space to play and explore, ensuring children come first. Play experiences and activities are exceptionally well-organised providing children with extensive first hand practical experiences and accommodate their individual needs. Children are supervised effectively at all times and daily routines are planned to incorporate trips out, for example, the toddler group and time in the home with planned focused activities in the home including sensory play. Consequently, children are progressing extremely well in all areas of their development.

Children are cared for in an environment where all adults have been vetted and systems are in place to ensure their safety. A comprehensive range of written policies and procedures, which are clearly formatted and accessible, are in place. Documentation and records are used to further promote the care and welfare of children. Records are continually updated enabling the childminder to spend her working day with the children.

The childminder holds a professional childcare qualification and she has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder has an exceptional working knowledge and extensive practical experience of children's developmental progress and how

children play and learn. She has completed the Introduction to Childminding Practice (ICP) and first aid training. The childminder has also attended extensive training courses to further enhance her practice, for example, child protection, valuing diversity and effective communication. Effective systems are in place for evaluating and reviewing her childminding practice, this include parental questionnaires. As a result children benefit from outstanding quality care.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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