

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY333558
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 July 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Patricia Mary Champion
<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 satisfactory. 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 2006. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and four years. They live in a house in a residential area within walking distance of schools, shops and the railway station in South Woodham Ferrers. All areas of the childminder's house are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available 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 aged six and eight years before and after school, on a temporary basis. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. The family keep fish as pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well nourished. They benefit from nutritious snacks after school such as apple slices and eagerly request second helpings. Drinks are freely available so that children do not become thirsty. Healthy home cooked meals such as Chinese chicken and rice are provided if requested. The childminder uses organic produce. She gathers information about any allergies or special dietary requirements to meet individual children's needs.

Children thrive because they follow good hygiene procedures. They know to wash their hands prior to eating and liquid soap is provided. Children play in a very clean environment and the food preparation areas are kept scrupulously clean. Their health is protected because the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and the first aid box is readily accessible. The appropriate paperwork for recording accidents or when medication is administered is in place. The childminder can act in the event of an emergency because she holds parental permission to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children have regular opportunities for fresh air and exercise, which contributes to a healthy lifestyle. They play in the garden developing their physical skills and enjoy playing football. Each day they walk to and from the nearby school regardless of the weather. Children can rest according to their needs and relax after school on comfortable sofas.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, comfortable and safe environment. Children are kept safe because the childminder carefully ensures that any potential risks are minimised. Socket covers are used throughout the house and there is a fire blanket and extinguisher readily accessible in the kitchen. The childminder regularly checks her smoke detectors and knows the escape route if she needs to evacuate children from the house in an emergency. The childminder gathers parental consent to take children on outings, to transport them in her car or for them to use outdoor play equipment at the park.

Children learn to keep themselves safe. They follow sensible road safety procedures when walking to and from school. The childminder is vigilant about the security of the children and keeps her front door locked while minding. She is always aware who is collecting the children and has organised a password system for each family.

Children play with a wide range of play materials stored in two playrooms where they can select items for themselves and make decisions about their play. All toys are of good quality and are checked to ensure that they are not damaged. Safety items such as stair gates and baby furniture are stored in the loft in readiness for caring for very young children.

Children are safeguarded because the childminder is aware of her responsibilities. She attended child protection training while she was living in London. However, she may not always be able to act in the children's best interests because she does not have information about the child protection guidelines in Essex.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with play opportunities they find interesting and enjoyable. The childminder is knowledgeable about each child and finds activities that reflect their current interests. Children make choices as they select toys and games. Interaction between the childminder and children is good and warm relationships have been formed. The childminder ensures that children feel at ease and comfortable in her home. Children confidently make requests and chat animatedly about their day at school.

Children spend prolonged periods using their imagination to design posters depicting their 'Spy Club'. They practise their literacy skills, sounding out letters to help each other write the words they need. The childminder helps children's learning by displaying posters in the home depicting numbers and letters of the alphabet. Children respond to challenge as they play chess or a marble game. They relax while watching their favourite television programmes. The childminder has the 'Birth to three matters' framework in readiness for caring for children aged under three years.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and have settled well with the childminder. They feel a sense of belonging because they know to remove their shoes and where to stow their belongings when they arrive home from school. Children behave extremely well. They are polite towards each other, remember to say 'Please' and 'Thank you' and always share toys and take turns. Plenty of praise and encouragement is given by the childminder to raise confidence and self-esteem.

Children learn about the wider world when they play with toys such as dolls and puzzles that reflect positive images of diversity or look at maps to find out about other countries in Europe. The childminder has dual language books and the children delight in remembering new words as they learn to speak another language. The childminder has attended a workshop regarding caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and knows the information she would need to gather from parents to provide the best possible care.

Children benefit from the very friendly partnership with parents. The childminder provides holiday cover for a colleague and parents appreciate how she can step in to provide this flexible care. All the necessary contracts and consent agreements that cover the business arrangements and the care given are signed by both parties. Verbal feedback is given to parents at the end of each day and brief written information about the provision is available. The childminder is aware of the need to keep a record of any complaints received.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are secure and confident as the childminder has a well-organised routine. Play space and resources are arranged to meet the children's needs effectively. The childminder is motivated and has attended all the required training. She holds the Cache Level 3 Diploma in Home Based Childcare. Training certificates are displayed in the dining room where parents can easily see them.

All the essential documentation is in place. The childminder systematically organises paperwork with information about the children so that it remains confidential and is securely stored. However, there is potential for misunderstanding as some of the documentation relating to the childminding provision is out-of-date and reflects the care provided in the childminder's previous home.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- update the written information about the provision so that it reflects current practice
- develop knowledge of the child protection guidelines from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

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)