

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY357082
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 April 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Sandra Daniels
<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 seven months and three years in Harlow, Essex. The whole 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 caring for two children aged four and seven years. The childminder walks or drives to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The childminder may attend local parent and carer and toddler groups. 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 cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where a good standard of hygiene is maintained. Children are actively encouraged to wash their hands as part of their daily routines, for example, before meals and after messy play activities. They learn why this is important as the childminder explains this to them. Clear procedures are in place in the event of an emergency and when children are unwell. The childminder has a current first aid certificate and ensures

suitable action is taken in the event of an accident or incident. Toys and equipment are cleaned regularly, minimising the risk of cross-infection and outdoor shoes are not worn indoors. Children are further protected as the childminder wears protective gloves when changing nappies.

Children benefit from a good range of healthy and nutritious foods, including fresh fruit and vegetables, which are provided by the childminder. Drinks are made available throughout the day and children are encouraged to help themselves from their own cups, increasing independence. The childminder ensures that she is aware of allergies and other special dietary requirements or preferences so that children's individual needs are met. Sample menus are available in the childminder's prospectus and parents are informed on a daily basis what their child has eaten during the day.

Daily exercise and fresh air is very much incorporated into the daily routine, helping to foster children's health, growth and development. They play in the childminder's garden and take regular outings to local parks throughout the year, wrapping up warm during the winter months and taking precautions against the sun in the summer. Children love to visit local groups with the childminder where they can access larger play equipment to further promote their physical skills of control and co-ordination. Younger children can sleep, rest or be active according to their individual needs.

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

The provision is good.

Children are able to move around safely and independently in the home as the childminder has taken positive steps to ensure a safe environment is maintained. Safety aspects include safety gates preventing children's access to the upstairs, plug socket covers are in place and smoke alarms are sited on each floor of the house. There is a fire blanket in the kitchen and all dangerous substances are locked away. Children remain safe as they are unable to leave the premises unsupervised. The childminder ensures all external doors are locked and keeps keys nearby in case of an emergency.

Children use a wide range of safe and developmentally-suitable resources which are well organised and easily accessible to encourage independence.

Children are learning to take some responsibility for themselves as they take part in regular emergency evacuation procedures and become familiar with the sound of the fire alarm. They remain safe when taken out of the home because the childminder ensures that when using the car they are strapped into the appropriate seats. When walking, young children are safely strapped into a buggy. Older children know they must stay close by and the childminder teaches them how to cross roads safely.

The childminder has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and an understanding of the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care. She is aware of maintaining accurate written documentation of any concerns. Therefore this ensures the children are well protected and safeguarded.

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

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy themselves and are helped to achieve through the use of a good range of planned activities both indoors and outside the home. For example, they enjoy visits

together to local shops, parks and the homes of friends who have young children. Children love the art and craft activities, enthusiastically making things, such as wooden spoon characters, to take home. Plans are based on what the children can do, their age and interests. Children enjoy books from an early age and are able to choose freely from the extremely wide selection available to them. Children are supported very well by the childminder who actively plays with them, talking to them and explaining what they are doing. Their achievements are celebrated well, for example, with praise and encouragement. This helps children to feel good about themselves and develop a strong sense of self-esteem. The daily routine allows time for rest and play as well as visits to local parks, pet's corner and activity centres. In this way, children are kept busy with a range of activities and learning to meet and mix with other children.

Good warm and caring relationships between adults and children are evident, for example, children are given frequent cuddles, sing songs and play action rhymes with the childminder. The childminder is keen to develop and extend her childminding practice and has agreed to further improve outcomes for children through planning, observing and assessing their learning and development.

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

The provision is good.

All children clearly feel included in this setting. The childminder ensures that she is available to each child and keeps a close check on them. She likes to make children feel at home and encourages them to be independent. She is supportive when necessary and children feel comfortable in her home. They are becoming aware of diversity through using resources, such as play people and books, which reflect differences in society. The childminder has a very positive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Children have a sense of belonging and are content. Their behaviour is very good. Young children learn to share and to take turns and play co-operatively together with the support of the childminder. They have access to toys which encourages them to play harmoniously together. Children respond very well to the childminder's calm and consistent approach to their behaviour. These strategies help children learn to behave responsibly.

The childminder has very good relationships with parents. She makes sure that contracts are completed and that she gathers relevant information about children to enable her to meet their individual needs. Her attractive and informative portfolio provides details about herself and her qualifications. She liaises closely with parents so that children can be cared for appropriately, taking into account what parents feel. They are aware of her house rules and she exchanges information, either verbal or written, at the end of each day. Children's care is enhanced through this working partnership.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Overall children's needs are met. Children are cared for by an experienced and highly motivated childminder, who is keen to provide a good quality of care for them. She keeps herself up to date with advancements and changes in childcare through her link with the local authority and information from Ofsted. The children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The childminder effectively uses the policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Required ratios are maintained and an accurate attendance record, reflecting

the actual times of arrival and departure is in place. Her certificate of registration is displayed and this contributes to ensuring the conditions of registration are complied with at all times. Records relating to the provision are in place and are stored in a confidential manner.

### **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):

- further improve outcomes for children by devising systems for observing, assessing and monitoring children's learning and development.

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)