

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY341551
Inspection date	04 August 2008
Inspector	Sarah Williams
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 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, one adult relative and three children aged nine, seven and four years. The family live in a house in Little Heath, near Romford in Essex.

The home is within walking distance of local schools, shops, parks and other local amenities. The whole of the premises is used for childminding. A fully enclosed garden is available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children aged from birth to under eight years and is currently minding two children on a part-time basis. Additionally she may offer overnight care to a maximum of two children aged from birth to under eight years.

The childminder speaks English, Bengali, Hindi and Punjabi.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's good healthy is promoted as children learn about basic routines such as hand washing and using a tissue under the guidance of the childminder. The nappy changing routine is hygienic, protecting children from the spread of infection. Children's allergies and medical needs are well understood and detailed on documentation. Children who are ill are not allowed to attend and those who become poorly are kept comfortable until they can be collected by a parent or carer. Children needing first aid are treated and the details recorded for a parent or carer to sign off. However, the childminder does not currently hold a valid first aid certificate which potentially compromises children's health and safety.

Children enjoy a balanced diet helping them to grow and develop. Lunches are usually provided by parents and stored safely until required. Children have snacks and drinks in accordance with parents' wishes and their dietary needs.

Children enjoy physical play and can get fresh air and exercise when they play in the secure enclosed garden. The childminder has carefully created a safe and child-friendly outdoor play space which children can easily access. Additionally they can visit local parks and nearby open spaces for variety.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and welcoming environment, generally well-organised to support their care and play needs. Toys are placed at low level but are not stored in boxes, which makes it difficult for children to self-select or choose from a wide range.

Equipment such as buggies, car seats and booster cushions are provided so that children can be safely transported on trips and outings. Toddlers too young to understand road safety can be helped to stay safe with reins when out walking. Stair gates keep children in safe areas of the house and the childminder has devised an escape plan in the event of an emergency evacuation being needed.

Children are protected from harm or neglect as the childminder has up-to-date knowledge of child protection procedures and is confident in her ability to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have opportunities to play freely with toys set out for them at low level. They enjoy imaginative play with vehicles and dolls and are encouraged to develop language skills with play computers and interactive electronic keyboards, assisted by the childminder. They enjoy sharing books and stories and carefully selected television programmes suitable for their age and stage of development.

Outdoor play provision is good; the garden has been sectioned off to provide a safe, spacious decked area for children's free movement and use of sand and water play. The childminder clearly enjoys the company of the minded children and encourages their play and interaction.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's care and welfare needs are understood as all details are recorded on their registration forms and the childminder keeps up-to-date by daily informal chats with parents regarding any relevant information, for example, how the children have slept or whether they are teething. Children who speak a language other than English are well supported in language development and communication. The childminder is multilingual and skilled in helping the children develop speech through play and day-to-day routines.

Children with any learning difficulties and/or disabilities are supported as required and the childminder can call on outside professional help if needed. Children behave very well in response to calm and consistent behaviour management strategies employed by the childminder. She understands children's different developmental phases and has realistic expectations for children's behaviour, helping them understand right from wrong. They are encouraged to share and take turns. They enjoy the company of the childminder's own children when they are at home.

The childminder works hard to develop an effective partnership with parents which is seen as key to a successful childminding arrangement. In turn parents appreciate the childminder's friendly approachability and her flexible care arrangements to accommodate their fluctuating work needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in home where all adults have been checked and vetted to ensure their suitability to be in contact with children. The childminder has completed her initial training course and keeps abreast of trends and developments in child care by reading and attending any short courses that she can access. Although she completed a first aid course this has recently lapsed and is now out-of-date.

Children benefit from the childminder's understanding of how to organise her time to allow the children play and rest time, based around routines and outings. Their arrival and departure is recorded each day giving a clear pattern of attendance.

Children are supported by all necessary paperwork and documentation which is clearly completed and contains all relevant details for safe care and welfare.

Overall, children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable as this is the first inspection since registration.

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):

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- organise the storage and presentation of toys and resources to allow children to make choices from a wide range.

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