

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY222968
Inspection date	15 August 2008
Inspector	Caroline Wright
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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and three children aged 13, 11 and nine years in Redbridge, 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 walks to local schools to take and collect children, and she attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has one cat as pet.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. The childminder regularly works with an assistant and at these times she is registered to care for a maximum of eight children at any one time. However, she is currently not minding.

When a provider does not have children on roll at the time of the inspection, inspection judgements are based on evidence gathered from discussions with the provider and an inspection of the premises, equipment and relevant documentation. As there are no children on roll, the quality of the provision cannot be judged better than satisfactory because there is no reliable evidence on which to assess its impact on children.

The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network, is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and attends the local childminding group. The childminder is working towards a level three early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of suitable procedures to:

- * promote children's good health, by ensuring that positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection and effective measures are put in place when children are ill (National Standard 7: Health);
- * ensure that food and drink for children is sufficient, well properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements. (National Standard 8: Food and drink)

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

- * The childminder demonstrates a very good knowledge and understanding of how to make sure that the premises are safe, secure and include the necessary facilities for children. The childminder has a very good awareness of how to ensure the environment is made welcoming to children and their families (National Standard 4: Physical environment)
- * The furniture, equipment and toys are safe, interesting, extremely well organised and appropriate for the needs of a wide age range of children (National Standard 5: Equipment)
- * The childminder demonstrates a very good understanding of how to promote children's safety and takes the necessary precautions to prevent accidents (National Standard 6: Safety)
- * The childminder has a very good knowledge of child protection procedures approved by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and is fully aware of her responsibility to protect the welfare of the child. (National Standard 13: Child Protection)

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a very good knowledge of how individual children develop and learn. She uses this knowledge and understanding effectively to plan and prepare a wide range of interesting activities for children according to their individual stage of development. The childminder has a very good knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage and how to assess children's progress towards the early learning goals and help move children to the next stage in their learning. (Standard 3: Care, learning and play)

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder:

* has a very good knowledge and awareness of the importance of treating each child with equal respect and concern (National Standard 9: Equal opportunities)

* is very aware that some children may have learning difficulties or disabilities, and demonstrates a good understanding of the importance of working in partnership with parents and with other professionals to promote the welfare and development of the child (National Standard 10: Special needs)

* shows a willingness and strong commitment to working with parents to manage children's behaviour in a consistent way which promotes their welfare and development (National Standard 11: Behaviour)

* has a very good understanding of the need to develop a strong partnership with parents, taking into account their differing needs. (National Standard 12: Working in partnership with parents and carers)

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder:

* demonstrates a very good awareness of the duty to ensure that other people living or working on the premises are suitable to be in contact with children (National Standard 1: Suitable person)

* clearly understands the importance of working within the constraints of the condition of registration relating to number of children and of organising space and resources effectively to best meet the needs of the children (National Standard 2: Organisation)

* demonstrates a very good awareness of the records to be kept and the importance of these. (National Standard 14: Documentation)

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to introduce a written complaints procedure and a complaints record book. A very good system has been introduced to record any complaints or concerns that are raised about the provision and the written complaints procedure is compliant with current requirements in regulations. As a result, parents are able to ensure that their children's individual needs are well met by the childminder and are well informed about how to contact the regulator if they need to.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 have procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and to keep a record of complaints and their outcome.

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

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- There are no recommendations raised, as children were not on roll at the time of inspection.

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