



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY302690
Inspection date	20 October 2005
Inspector	Sandra Daniels

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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2005. She lives with her husband and one child aged 1 year. They live in Loughton and the whole of the premises is used for minded children.

The premises is situated within walking distance of local shops, a library, park and various pre-school groups. Primary schools are nearby and it is a short drive to the station.

The childminder is registered to care for no more than 4 children under 8 years. She

is currently caring for 3 children on a part time basis.

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 learn the importance of good hygiene through very well organised activities and reinforced daily routines. They are beginning to learn that washing hands prevents the spread of germs as they follow the example set by the childminder. Effective procedures are in place for ensuring that young children are clean and comfortable, for example, frequent nappy changes.

The childminder consistently encourages children to make healthy eating choices. She values the decisions they make and goes on to encourage them to try something else, recognising that one decision leads to another. The childminder treats meal times as an opportunity to help children to enjoy their food and become independent in feeding themselves. Children's individual needs are met through the childminder ensuring that she is aware of any special dietary requirements or allergies.

Babies' emotional stability and resilience are fostered as the childminder and parents share understandings between home and the setting about the way they respond to their emotions. Young children are encouraged to pursue their interests as the childminder has a flexible routine. This reduces incidents when children may feel frustration and conflict.

Children have access to a broad range of physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They are taken to the local park and nature reserve where they are able to explore freely and safely.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a warm, welcoming and child-friendly home where children feel very safe and secure. Space within the home is very well organised allowing children to move around and explore safely and independently.

Children can easily access toys and resources which are checked regularly to ensure there are no broken parts that could harm them. Children are kept safe during play as the childminder reinforces safe practices, for example, putting some toys away in order to make clear play space, free of obstacles. This helps children to learn to take responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe.

Children are protected because the childminder has a thorough knowledge and understanding of Child Protection issues and is very confident in her role in the safety and well-being of children.

Babies and young children benefit from having choices in an environment which is kept safe by a knowledgeable childminder who provides a good balance between freedom and safe limits.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, confident and settle well into the childminder's home. They enjoy attention and being close to other children and familiar adults. Children are provided with a broad range of stimulating and interesting resources which support young children's imaginative learning.

Babies learn about words and meaning by the childminder's effective interaction when turn-taking and in response to rhymes. The childminder talks to young children, explaining what they are doing, which encourages children to link words with actions.

Children are able to develop their personal, social and emotional development as the childminder has an extensive knowledge of child development. However they would further benefit by the childminder documenting children's developmental progress.

Children are able to develop their self-esteem through the many creative activities provided for them, for example, 'Aquadraw' and play-dough. They show enthusiasm for the varied range of books which are easily accessible to them at all times.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are able to develop an awareness and understanding of diversity and the needs of others as the childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources which promote a positive view of the wider world.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. This is reflected in the records the childminder keeps on each child. Children approach daily routines with confidence and autonomy and have many opportunities for making choices.

Through a consistent approach and consultation with parents, the childminder has established some acceptable and effective boundaries for behaviour. Children are praised for positive behaviour and respond very well to this. They are well behaved and play enthusiastically together and alongside one another.

Children have a clear sense of belonging as the childminder fosters very good relationships with each child and encourages them to build relationships with each other. The childminder provides a 'settling-in' period during which the foundations of these relationships are laid for both children and their parents. Young children are helped to feel welcome and secure as the childminder provides a 'special' place for their coat and bag.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children settle very well into the childminder's home and are secure, confident and happy. They are effectively supported in their play and are able to develop independence as the setting is homely and very well organised.

The childminder ensures that all persons with access to children are suitably vetted. Children are kept safe as a result of this and the fact that collection of children is by a named person only.

All required documentation is in place and is used effectively to provide for children's welfare, care and learning. The childminder is committed to training and has achieved relevant childcare qualifications.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- give consideration to documenting children's developmental progress.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website:

