



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY308316
Inspection date	04 November 2005
Inspector	Lynn Clements

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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2005. He lives with his wife, who is also a registered childminder, and their 3 children. They live in a residential area of Haverhill.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time when working on his own and this maximum number is increased to 8 children when working with another childminder. He currently has 4 children on roll. During the inspection there was 1 minded child present.

The whole of the property is used for childminding, except the loft room. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA)

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn to keep clean and protect themselves from germs as they wash their hands after using the toilet or before eating. The childminder instigates good hygiene routines in relation to nappy changing and the care of babies to ensure they are protected from cross contamination. A clear sick child policy is in place and shared with parents to minimise the spread of infection. All health related documentation is in place and updated regularly to reflect children's changing needs. Children's individual medical and dietary needs are met.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. The childminder works closely with parents and carers to provide suitable healthy snack options. Parents support the healthy eating programme when providing packed lunches. The childminder seeks information from parents to ensure their wishes and children's individual likes and dislikes are respected. Children are encouraged to ask for drinks and babies are offered drinks regularly to ensure none remain thirsty.

Children enjoy a wide range of physical activities which help them stay fit and healthy. They have access to a fully enclosed garden where they learn to move their bodies with control and coordination as they run, jump and balance. The childminder provides further opportunities making the most of local amenities such as children's activity centres or visits to wildlife parks. All children are able to rest or be active according to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Good organisation of the play space and other child accessible areas ensures the environment remains safe for children to play and investigate safely. Toys and resources are regularly checked and cleaned to ensure they remain safe for children. The provision of child accessible storage encourages children to extend their own play and tidy away afterwards to prevent tripping hazards. Child height furniture meets the needs of children and helps to create an exciting environment where they can play and investigate in comfort.

Children are supervised at all times. The childminder works closely with his wife, who is also a registered childminder, enabling them to provide additional support and offer one to one care as appropriate. Children are safeguarded by clear fire evacuation procedures which are shared to ensure everyone knows what to do in an emergency. Outings are planned to ensure children travel safely.

The childminder has a clear understanding of child protection issues and has attended relevant training which focuses on children's welfare as paramount. He is careful to check the identification of visitors.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident in the childminder's home. They explore activities and the good use of child accessible storage enables even the youngest children to reach and access toys independently. Children have opportunities to explore and develop in all areas of learning and the wide variety of toys and resources enables them to develop their independence as they ride wheeled toys, manipulate play dough, extend their imagination in role play or join in construction activities. The childminder listens to children, using positive praise and encouragement to develop their interest and ability in accessing the computer and extending their skills. They complete tasks independently and learn about other related information technology equipment with confidence.

The childminder and his wife have attended the 'Birth to three matters' framework training and they intend to implement the strategies in daily practice to ensure children under three years are supported.

Parents have opportunities to share in their children's achievements through verbal discussions and two way communication records which clearly show their children's experiences and progress. Shared information ensures the needs of children are put first and provides continuity of care between home and the setting.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children form good relationships with each other and adults. They learn to share and take turns. Discussions with parents provides background information about each child which is used well to help them settle and move with confidence between their own home and that of the childminder.

The childminder will obtain a copy of the Disability Discrimination Act to ensure he continues to meet children's individual needs in line with current legislation.

The childminder works with his wife who is also a registered childminder and both have training and experience in fostering and caring for children with special needs; he has good strategies in place to ensure children and their families are fully supported.

Children settle quickly and become confident due to the clear and open communications between their parents and the childminder. The childminder and his wife have developed their own childminding website, providing information for parents about their setting and the service they provide. Parental wishes are respected and continuity of care between home and the setting is strongly supported.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Toys and resources provided by the childminder support children's overall development. There is plenty of space both inside and outside for children to explore safely. They are able to pursue their own interests due to the well planned activities and child accessible storage.

All documentation is in place and securely stored, and confidentiality is respected. Records are updated and contribute to the health, safety and well-being of the children.

The childminder has attended additional training in many aspects of early years childcare and education to support his practice with young children, helping them to make progress and make smooth transitions into school.

Overall, the range of children's needs are met.

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.
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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):

- improve outcomes for children from birth to three by using an approach in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- obtain a copy of the early years Disability Discrimination Act booklet to support practice in relation to equal opportunities.

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: www.ofsted.gov.uk