



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY306188
Inspection date	21 November 2005
Inspector	Amanda Jane Gray

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. She lives with her husband and 17 month old daughter. They live in a house in Wickford, Essex, within walking distance of the shops, park, school and pre-schools. The whole of the house except for the main bedroom is used for childminding.

There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding two children.

The family do not have any pets.

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 are cared for in a warm, clean home and are beginning to learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They follow clear and consistent routines such as washing their hands after having been to the toilet and before eating food, which is promoting their health.

Children are effectively protected from cross infection by the very good standards of hygiene maintained by the childminder within her home. Children's good health and general well being is promoted by the childminder's sound knowledge of first aid, which is supported by a current first aid certificate, an accessible well stocked first aid kit and a comprehensive sick child policy and procedure.

Children are extremely well nourished and benefit from the childminders enthusiastic attitude to healthy eating, which is embraced by the children. Food is freshly prepared and incorporates fruit and vegetables on a daily basis. Account is taken of the wishes of parents through regular discussion to ensure that their individual children's dietary needs are being met.

Children develop their physical skills on a regular basis because the childminder provides plenty of different types of activity that creates space in which they can move around in different ways. Children have continued opportunities to experience outdoor play and they benefit from the good range of physical play activities which the childminder provides, ensuring that they benefit from regular exercise and fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a comfortable home and are made to feel welcome in a safe, warm, well planned environment, which is set up to meet their needs. Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised by the close supervision the childminder gives to children in her care and the safety measures that are in place in the home, for example daily risk assessments and regular fire drills. This is further enhanced by the childminder's use of comprehensive written risk assessments, together with written action plans should any potential hazards to children be identified. Children learn to keep themselves safe and avoid accidental injury through the childminder's encouragement of safety practices, for example tidying away toys should they become tripping hazards.

Children independently select activities from a broad range of good quality toys and

equipment, which meet safety standards. Close supervision by the childminder ensures that children are provided with appropriate resources for their ages and stages of development. This provides children with safe, fun and stimulating play opportunities.

Children in the childminder's care are better protected from risk of harm because she has a very good understanding of the child protection procedures and is supported in this by clear written information which she can refer to.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very confident, happy and relaxed and engage in a wide range of purposeful and fun activities that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children are developing independence and good self-esteem through the childminder's continual use of positive and sensitive handling. Children benefit well from the effective praise and nurturing environment created by the childminder, which contributes to their sense of belonging and security.

Children are encouraged to play and learn from an early age because activities are both well planned and varied by the childminder. She is currently introducing the use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework which is effective in promoting younger children's development. Children acquire new knowledge and skills and have their interest stimulated by the childminder's varied and interesting programme of activities. They are encouraged to explore other cultures, the world around them and their local environment. Through the childminder's enthusiastic attitude, creative activities, play equipment and regular trips out.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder knowing them exceptionally well and responding to their personal needs. The Childminder is committed to improving her skills and knowledge through training and is dedicated to furthering her knowledge of children with special needs, which helps children to flourish. Children are valued and respected as individuals. They are learning to appreciate the world around them, through the positive attitude that the childminder shows towards others, and through her understanding of equal opportunities.

Children's behaviour is very good and they are learning right from wrong. This is due to the high expectations of the childminder and her effective strategies for teaching them about boundaries for behaviour. Children learn through the consistent approach and good example shown by the childminder, in an environment where good behaviour is embraced, praised and encouraged.

Relationships with parents are excellent and the childminder works hard to ensure a proactive and supportive partnership between herself and the families of the children

in her care. Children's individual needs are able to be met as the childminder has comprehensive written records and respects parent's wishes. She ensures that opportunities are made on a daily basis to share information about children's development to keep parents well informed and included. Parents and children benefit from the use of daily diaries which are used to carry information between the childminder and home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit well because the childminder is consistent, caring and concerned for their welfare. They settle effectively into the childminders home and are secure and happy due to the implementation of a gentle settling in procedure when they first start. The home is very well organised with resources and there is plenty of space for the children who attend which is used well. This enables them to develop their levels of independence and build positive relationships with each other.

Children are well supervised at all times and checks have been completed to ensure persons in regular contact with the children are suitable and the children remain safe. There are a comprehensive set of policies and procedures which work well in practice and are used effectively to provide for the children's welfare, care and learning.

An extremely well organised and comprehensive record keeping system is in place to enable the childminder to effectively gather and share information with parents and this contributes to ensuring that the overall needs of the children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Complaints since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?
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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):

- continue to further develop knowledge and understanding of the needs of children under three, through the use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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