



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY309013
Inspection date 13 February 2006
Inspector Christine Eglinton

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 registered in August 2005. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 3 and 6 years. The family live in a house in Chadwell Heath Romford, Essex, which is within walking distance to all local amenities. The childminder prefers to use the ground floor areas of the property for childminding and one of the upstairs bedrooms for sleep. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is currently minding 4 children under 8 years and one child over 8 years. The childminder walks to drop and collect children from the local school, and takes minded children to a local carer and toddler group. She is a member of the

National Childminding Association. The family has a hamster and fish

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment where they benefit from good levels of cleanliness, and hygiene throughout the home. Children have their own flannels and individual named towels, which helps to prevent the risk of cross infection. Children follow good hygiene routines such as washing their hands after visiting the toilet, and before eating snacks. Good explanation and effective activities, help children understand how to reduce the risk of passing on germs. For example, the childminder uses appropriate books to discuss good health practices, such as washing dirt from vegetables before they are eaten, and why children need to wash the dirt from under their nails, after playing in the garden. This helps children to consolidate their learning, and helps them fully understand the importance of good hygiene in meaningful ways.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate, which means she is able to give children appropriate care if there is an accident. Parents give prior consent for the childminder to administer medication, which ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. Children who are infectious do not attend, thus preventing the spread of infectious ailments. The childminder ensures she gathers all relevant information regarding children's diet and medical history, to help her meet children's individual dietary and medical needs.

Children receive a healthy range of snacks and meals which encourages them to develop healthy eating practices. The childminder ensures meals are well balanced and always includes a healthy option, such as fresh fruit and fresh salad items. Children learn the importance of eating healthily, and enjoy preparing their meals such as helping to grate raw carrots, and slice peppers and cucumber. Meal times are a social occasion and children really enjoy this time together. They eagerly chat to the childminder and to each other, which helps children develop good language and social skills. Children are given regular drinks but are not able to confidently help themselves. This does not encourage older children to think about their personal needs.

Children enjoy regular exercise that helps contributes to their good health. They regularly walk to the local school and enjoy playing physical games such as 'twister' where they have to stretch and move their bodies. The childminder provides children with good opportunities to develop their balance and co-ordination. For example, children enjoy playing on the trampoline, swings, and slide in the garden, and trips to the local park where there is a further selection of large play equipment, gives children plenty of opportunities to develop their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Space within the childminder's home is well organised and meets children's needs effectively. They have ample room to play freely without any restrictions from furniture, and have a quiet place to rest, and a comfortable place to enjoy their meals. Children enjoy playing with a wide range of good quality toys and equipment which are suitable for children's stage of development. They are able to choose their favourite toys, which are kept clean and visually checked to ensure they remain in good condition. This helps to ensure there are no broken parts that could harm a child. The childminder ensures she carefully selects toys to ensure babies and young have a good choice of safe and suitable resources.

The childminder ensures children are well supervised while in her care to keep them safe, and children benefit from a good range of safety measures. For example, safety gates protect access into the kitchen, safety caps protect exposed electric sockets, and internal doors are fitted with safety door stops. This helps to reduce potential hazards, and enables children to move safely and freely around the home. Good routines and gentle reminders, such as reminding children to walk carefully down the stairs, help children to learn about keeping themselves safe. Older children are able to demonstrate their awareness of road safety. They talk confidently about crossing the road while looking and listening for any approaching cars.

The childminder has sound knowledge of child protection issues. She knows what action she needs to take, if she has any concerns about a child in her care. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing with a good range of stimulating activities that help children learn while having fun. Children enjoy painting pictures and using various craft resources to decorate their pictures. For example, sticking small fish and sea creatures on their sea-side pictures, and using pipe cleaners to represent a king's throne. This helps to extend children's imagination and creativity.

Children have regular opportunities of visiting local places of interest which includes visits to a soft play adventure centre, and younger children attend a toddler group. During the holidays older children enjoy attending the library where they access the internet. This offers children a wide range of experiences, and helps to extend their enjoyment.

Children enjoy regular cooking activities and have made a variety of cakes and cookies. The childminder ensures she includes activities that reflect children's current interests, which help to engage them well in their play. For example, children can play with their favourite cars in a variety of ways which may include water, or during role play. This enables children to experience wider play opportunities while incorporating their favourite toy or current interest. They take great delight in feeding the childminder's fish and crabs, and enjoy talking and learning about the different types of fish such as 'kissing fish'. However, the use of the television tends to stop

children concentrating while looking at books with the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have good opportunities through activities that help them value each other's similarities and differences. For example, they discuss stories that show children from other cultures having the same experiences as them such as attending school. They are able to play with toys and resources which reflect positive images of people in society which include disability. This helps children to learn to acknowledge and accept differences.

All children are encouraged to join in all activities to ensure they have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential. The childminder makes expectations of behaviour clear, and gives clear requests which ensure children understand why certain behaviour is not acceptable. This enables children to behave well, and helps them understand right from wrong. Children are learning important social skills when they play together. For instance, they have great fun playing a shopping game which involves taking turns, while matching cards with items of shopping. They play well together and are learning to share toys when they play together with the train track.

Children benefit from the childminder using praise and encouragement, and there are good opportunities that help children develop their independence. For example, they are encouraged to lay the table, prepare their lunch and cut and make their own sandwiches and rolls. This helps children to feel good about themselves, and helps them develop a sense of achievement.

Partnership with parents is positive, and regular informal discussions about the children's day and written care sheets for babies, which covers food intake, sleep and activities, ensure continuity of care. Children are helped to settle by the childminder asking parents appropriate information, concerning their child's needs. This ensures she has good knowledge of children's individual requirements.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder attends training whenever she can to ensure she is able to provide appropriate care for the children she looks after. She has sought information on attending further child protection training, which will support children's welfare. Children benefit from the childminder's good organisation of the premises which provides them with good space to play and access resources. Children feel at home and at ease, and daily routines provide children with opportunities to relax as well as be busy and actively occupied. The childminder is able to spend quality time with the children due to her organising her time and ratios effectively.

Information kept about the children is relevant and helps to promote their welfare. All

mandatory records are in place, and are kept in a confidential manner to guarantee the safe and effective management of the setting.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

'Not applicable'

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by the parents, which they must 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 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):

- encourage older children to help themselves to fresh drinking water
- make sure the use of television is not distracting and interrupting children's play and concentration

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