



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	202500
Inspection date	23 May 2006
Inspector	Lynn Amelia Hartigan
Type of inspection	Integrated
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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1996. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and fourteen years. They live in a residential area of Holland-on Sea, near Clacton. The whole of the premises is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder has a dog and a cat.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time and is currently caring for five children who attend both full and part-time. During the inspection there were three children all aged three years present. The childminder walks to the local toddler groups, shops and park as part of the daily routine.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA). The childminder is also a member of an accredited childminder network group and is in receipt of funded three and four year olds.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are becoming aware of good personal hygiene. They learn about keeping themselves healthy as the childminder positively encourages children to wash their hands before snack, after using the toilet and if they have played in the garden. The childminder provides them with their own individual towels and flannels and this protects them further from cross infection. They are encouraged to clean their teeth following a meal and have their own wash bags in the bathroom. Children are also protected through excellent hygiene procedures when their nappies are being changed. Children's well-being is a priority and the childminder has a robust written emergency treatment plan in place.

Providing excellent opportunities for communication with parents ensures children are protected with regard to illness and medication. A detailed health and sickness policy is in place which is followed and reviewed regularly. An appropriate well stocked first aid kit is available and the childminder has completed a first aid course.

Children's routines are respected and exceptionally well catered for. They are able to sleep in a travel cot in a quiet lounge adjacent to the playroom. Clean sheets and blankets are supplied. All equipment is of excellent quality. Children's health is promoted exceptionally well. They enjoy fresh air and exercise daily as the childminder ensures they have a walk or play in the garden as part of their daily routine. This may also include a visit to the local park, beach or 'Smarties' dance group. Children are able to develop their physical skills as access to very good resources outdoors are easily available, such as ride on toys, slide and trampoline.

Excellent care is taken to ensure the children enjoy healthy nutritious snacks and meals. A fruit bowl is accessible to children at all times, healthy options such as milk, fresh juice and water are also offered. Snacks and meals are prepared in a very clean, highly organised kitchen. The childminder has an excellent understanding of food preparation and holds a food hygiene certificate. Excellent procedures to ensure that food is stored appropriately are in place. Children are able to help in setting the table, they are keen and enjoy washing their own plates after their meal.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder's commitment to welcome children and their parents is outstanding. A dedicated playroom is brightly decorated with the children's work and posters. Individual coat pegs and shoe storage enables them to feel a sense of belonging. Children's individual needs are met as appropriate, very well maintained resources and equipment is provided. The exceptionally good

selection of toys both indoors and outdoors and their accessibility, ensures the children can make choices and self select.

Children play in a very clean, extremely safe environment as the childminder consistently gives priority to protect children. She ensures the home is risked assessed and that the premises meet with all requirements. This includes fire safety. A detailed fire evacuation plan and policy is in place.

The well-being of the children is protected exceptionally well as the childminder has an excellent understanding of child protection issues. A comprehensive written policy is in place for parents. Recent training ensures the childminder is up to date with current policies and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children have excellent opportunities for a wide range of play experiences. An exceptional selection of quality toys and resources available to them within the playroom and garden, this enables them to have fun and learn. The childminder has made excellent use of the space available and the house is impressively welcoming and child friendly.

Children feel very comfortable and secure, they are able to select toys with ease and confidence as they are impressively organised and accessible. Child sized furniture and cosy areas for the younger child to play create a very welcoming environment.

The childminder's thorough understanding of children's development ensures activities and toys are appropriate for their developmental stage. For example, a treasure baskets and story sacks have been developed for the younger child. Large chunky chalks, crayons and low level tables and easels ensure the young child can join in all activities with ease.

Young children receive excellent support as the childminder is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Activities are theme based and take into account the children's individual stage of development and understanding. For example, themes such as animals and growing are enjoyed by all. The children have grown cress and make egg and cress sandwiches for their snack. They are successful in growing potatoes and are able to take them home. Children show enthusiasm and excitement showing off their baby frogs, having watched them grow from tadpoles.

Excellent opportunities for creative play are available as the childminder plans activities such as corn flour, dough, cooking, dancing, music and dressing up. Children enjoy fresh air and exercise daily as outdoor play is positively encouraged this may include playing in the exceptionally well resourced, child friendly garden. Toys such as a play house, sand tray and water play support the children's imaginative play. Children love to dig and are able to pot plants and take them home. Mini beasts and animals are added to the sand and water play in line with the theme and cause great excitement when found.

Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. Very good observations of the children's development is recorded within their individual file, samples of their work is kept. This enables the childminder to plan appropriate activities and provides the parents with a good record of their achievements.

The childminder has an excellent knowledge of the Foundation Stage and how children learn and provides exceptionally fun and interesting activities for all the children aged three and four years. The childminder has a very good knowledge of what stage of development the children have reached as her observations and evaluations are well documented.

The childminder uses themes when planning the curriculum she offers the children. Exciting topics such as animals in their natural habitat, acknowledgment of traditional days and celebrations, such as Halloween and Chinese new year are included within the plans.

Children enjoy an excellent variety of creative activities such as sand, cooking, gardening, musical instruments, gloop, painting and play dough. Children enthusiastically contribute to the planning expressing their own interests such as crabbing, visits to a farm and foot and hand painting.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are exceptionally well cared for as the childminder commits time in getting to know them and their family backgrounds. She positively encourages parents to share information with her so that she can best meet and support the children's individual needs. Detailed and exceptionally well written equal opportunities and special needs policies are in place and are regularly reviewed, these support and ensure the inclusion of all children.

Children's knowledge and understanding of a wider world is encouraged mainly through conversation and work around planned themes. There are excellent resources available to the children that reflect diversity such as, an impressive selection of books, persona dolls, small world figures, play food, globe, musical instruments, dressing up and posters.

Children feel valued and respected as the childminder is a calm and an excellent role model, she praises the children continuously for their efforts. Completion of easy tasks such as laying the table are rewarded with a sticker and are fun. A very good behaviour management policy is in place for parents, excellent communication with the parents ensures there is a consistent approach to managing behaviour. Children appear very confident and reassured.

A strong emphasis is put in welcoming the parents into the home. This promotes a good working relationship. Exchange of information ensures the childminder is informed to develop and support the children's needs. This is achieved successfully as the childminder has created a robust information file that supports her expert practice. This is offered to parents and provides copies of her settings individual policies and procedures. Information is displayed for parents in the entrance hall and playroom.

Partnership with parents and carers is outstanding.

A superb relationship between the childminder and the parents ensures they are fully informed about their children's activities and her working practices, for example, development files are well maintained and give the parents good information regarding their children's development. Useful information is available to parents on how children learn as this displayed within the playroom and a robust file of general information is accessible to them at all times. Parents are given the weeks plans in advance and the childminder positively welcomes their input and encourages them to work together to support the children in their learning.

Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is being fostered.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder's home is breathtakingly welcoming and effectively organised to support children's play. The play space indoors and outdoors enables children to explore, play safely and have fun.

The children benefit from being cared for by a motivated, qualified and experienced provider of day care. The childminder is committed to training, is reflective and strives for excellence. Ensuring she is up to date with current childcare practice means children receive high quality care.

Children's care is significantly enhanced as the childminder manages her day exceptionally well and is very organised. The childminder can effectively support and meet the needs of all the children in her care as a result. Effective, informative and well maintained documents and information regarding the children, enables the childminder to support the children's individual needs.

Leadership and Management is outstanding.

The childminder is committed in providing the Foundation Stage to funded three and four year olds. Completion and commitment to training enables the childminder to ensure she is up to date with current practice and can offer the best practice. She also works closely with the local primary school teacher and other professionals at the children's centre.

Questionnaires that are given to parents ensures the childminder is constantly reviewing and improving her already excellent practice, she is reflective and welcomes any information, training advice that would assist her in her work. Therefore, the children receive excellent quality care and education.

Overall, the children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents which they can see on request. The complaint record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education

recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of nursery education are outstanding.

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