

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY335736          |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 10 September 2007 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Lisa Paisley      |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Childcare         |
| <b>Type of care</b>            | 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](http://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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Childminder was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband, one adult child and one child aged 13 years in South Ockendon, Essex. The downstairs of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five part time and one child over five before and after school and during the school holidays. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a 11 rabbits as pets.

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's health is well promoted as they are looked after in a clean and caring environment. They learn the importance of good personal hygiene through established routines for hand

washing, for example, before eating or after using the toilet. Children have access to anti-bacterial soap, hot and cold water and hand towels ensuring their hands are thoroughly cleaned. They are protected from the risk of cross-infection as the childminder has a clear policy regarding the care of sick children and has information available on infectious diseases and exclusions from the home. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a first aid box to hand, ensuring children's well-being should an accident occur. Children's health and medical needs are discussed with parents and relevant information recorded, enabling appropriate care to be provided.

Children benefit from a healthy and balanced diet as they enjoy meals and snacks with the childminder. Meals are provided in accordance with children's individual needs and in consultation with parents. Snacks and meals include a choice of fresh fruit or vegetables, for example, chopped apple, banana and pear. Children are learning to understand the importance of a healthy diet as they talk about foods which are healthy during mealtimes. Children recognise when they are thirsty and drinks are accessible throughout the day, ensuring they remain well-hydrated.

Children enjoy a good range of physical play experiences that contribute to their good health. Easy access to the rear garden gives them daily opportunities to enjoy the fresh air. The daily routine offers a mixture of active play and time for rests. There are good opportunities for trips to the local park, shops and library.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder is careful to check the premises inside and outside before the children arrive. The premises are secure and children are unable to leave them unescorted. Resources are accessible to children, helping to promote independence and choice as they make their own selections and decisions. The home has been organised to provide space for children and they are encouraged to pack away activities after playing to keep the play space free from tripping hazards. All potential risks to children have been minimised, for example, all low level sockets are protected, sharp knives and cleaning materials are inaccessible to children. This ensures that they are safe at all times.

Children are supervised at all times and the childminder ensures that her vehicle is safe to transport children and proper car restraints are used. Children learn to keep themselves safe because the childminder encourages them to tidy away toys and negotiate space around the home safely. When on outings young children have to hold the childminder's hands and they discuss and practise road safety, for example, stopping at the kerb side and waiting until it is safe to cross the road.

The childminder has an understanding about safeguarding children in her care, however, she has not updated her knowledge and understanding of the Local Children Safeguarding Board (LCSB) to ensure the welfare of children is fully safeguarded.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and secure with the childminder. They freely explore activities and the organisation of resources enables children to make their independent choices. Children have opportunities to investigate and develop their skills in all areas of play and learning, for example,

making the train track and then placing play people inside. They are able to play and investigate toys and resources at their own pace as the childminder provides children with one to one attention and support. A suitable range of activities are provided for the children, however, young children's imagination and self-expression is not further developed through extending the range of creative activities.

Children's confidence and independence is developed as the childminder encourages children to try new activities in a safe and supportive environment. They look to the childminder for reassurance, help and assistance and she responds in a warm, caring and enthusiastic manner. Children are beginning to distinguish between right and wrong as the childminder uses a range of appropriate and sensitive strategies for managing children's behaviour. Children receive regular praise and encouragement, developing their self-esteem.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and treated as individuals. Their needs are met because the childminder knows the children well and is attentive to their needs at all times. Children are given appropriate support, contributing to them becoming confident and secure within the childminder's home. Children are encouraged to make choices and decisions and respond well to the praise given by the childminder, promoting their self-esteem. All children have access to toys and equipment which foster their learning and development. They gain an awareness of diversity through daily routines, however, this is not fully developed as there is a limited selection of toys and play experiences. Consequently, children's learning of the wider world is limited.

Although the childminder has no experience of providing care for children having identified learning difficulties and or physical disabilities, she is aware of children's developmental stages. Consequently, she feels able to approach parents if she is concerned about children's progress and obtain appropriate support to ensure that they can make progress. The childminder provides a positive role model for children, helping them develop a positive and caring attitude towards others. Children form caring relationships with each other and the childminder. They learn to share and take turns. The childminder is consistent in her approach with regards to behaviour management and she supports children as they begin to learn about boundaries and respecting each other. Plenty of positive praise and encouragement supports children's confidence and raises their self-esteem.

Discussions at hand-over times provide opportunities for parents to learn about their children's achievements and experiences with the childminder. They are given clear written information about her role, written policies, certificates and reports. Parents are informed verbally by the childminder about her complaints procedure to ensure any issues that may affect the care of children are always discussed and resolved.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

A calm, welcoming and child-centred environment is provided by the childminder, ensuring children feel happy and secure. Space is well-organised so children can play, eat and rest in comfort, meeting their individual needs. The childminder has a high regard for the well-being of all the children in her care, organising her time and resources appropriately to ensure children are stimulated and enjoy their time in her care. Children take an active part in deciding what activities they would like to do, fostering their confidence and independence.

The childminder has completed training in childminding practice and has a sound understanding of the National Standards, which is reflected in the care she provides. Checks have been completed to ensure that persons living in the household are suitable. A good range of written policies are shared and discussed with parents to inform them of the service provided and the care their child receives. Detailed contracts, consents, child records and additional information sheets are completed, promoting the welfare of each child cared for. The childminder accurately records the times children arrive and leave the setting to ensure they are fully safeguarded. Overall children's needs are met.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can 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 satisfactory. 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):

- develop further young children's imagination through extending the range of creative activities
- extend the range of resources and play experiences to reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability
- update knowledge and understanding of the Local Children Safeguarding Board (LCSB).

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)